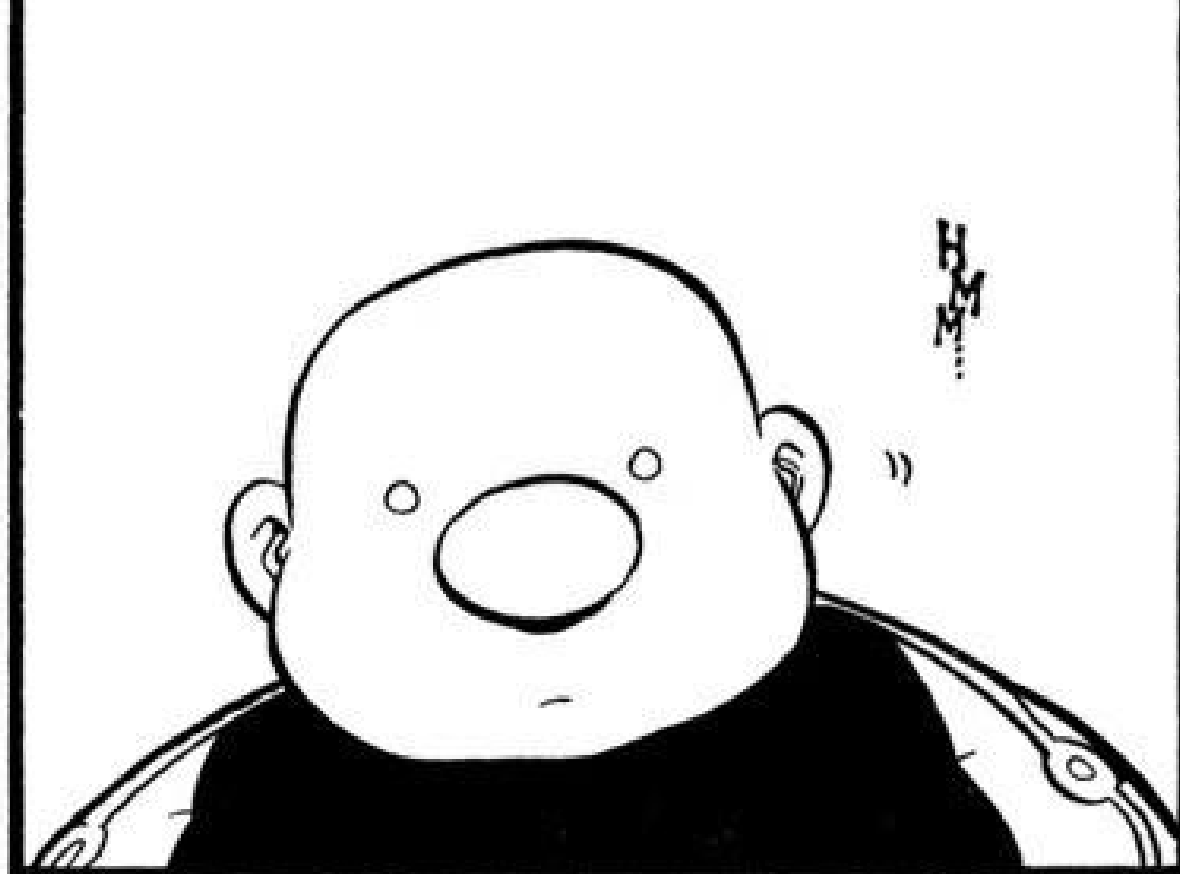




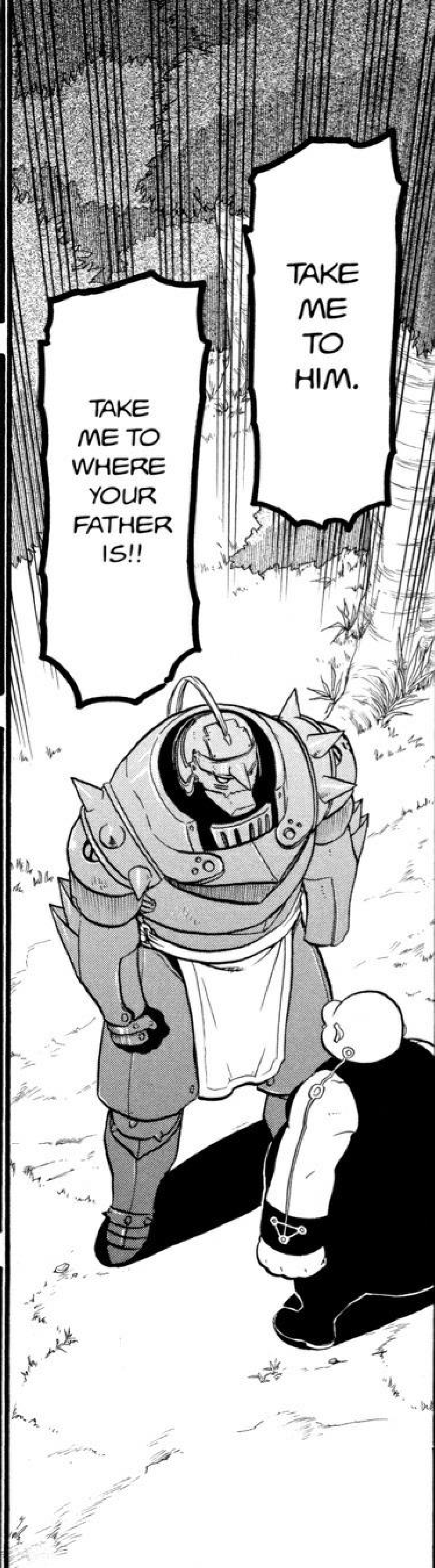
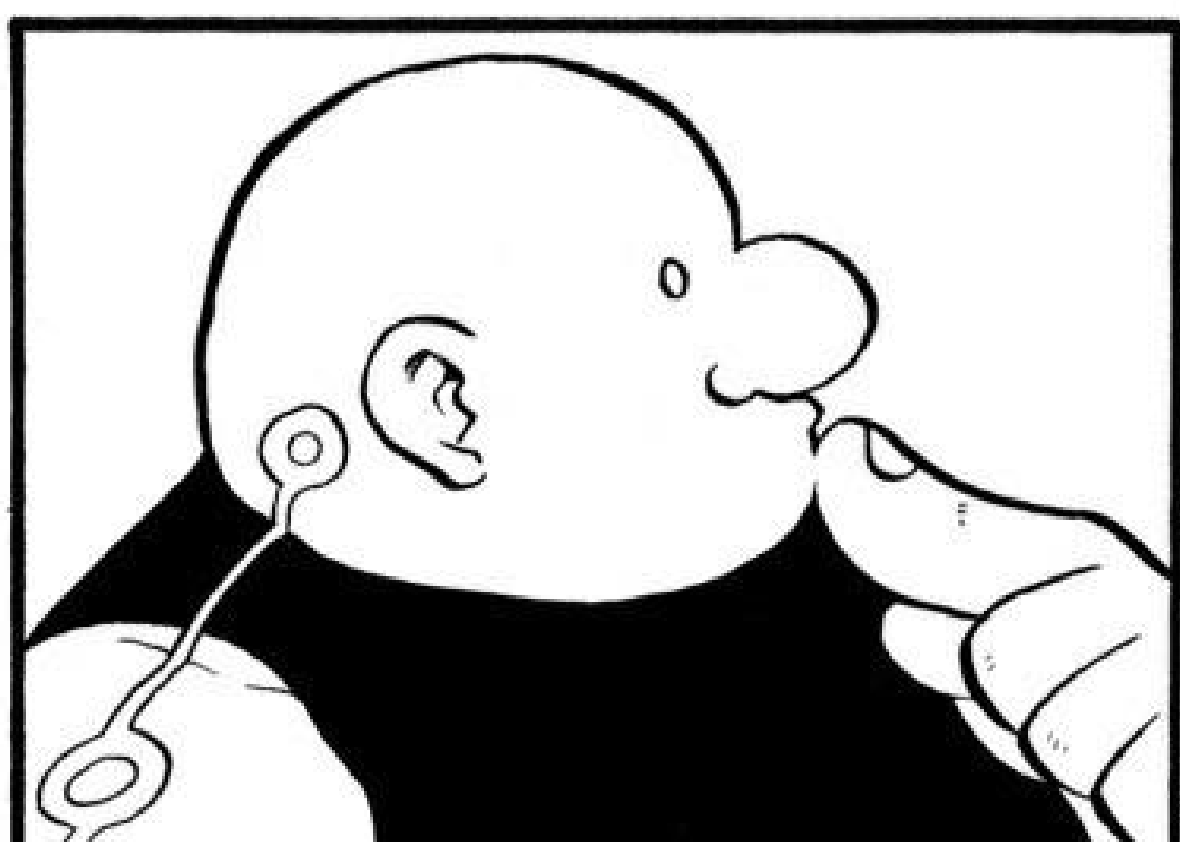
UH-HUH.
I OPENED
IT.

DID YOU
OPEN
THE
PORTAL ?



HE'LL
BE
HAPPY.
HE'LL
BE
REALLY
HAPPY.

IF I
TAKE YOU
THERE,
WILL
FATHER
BE
HAPPY?



TAKE
ME TO
WHERE
YOUR
FATHER
IS!!

TAKE
ME
TO
HIM.

BRIGADIER
GENERAL GRAND'S
MURDER BY
SCAR LEAVES US
SOMEWHAT SHORT
OF PERSONNEL,
BUT IT IS
ACTUALLY QUITE
FORTUITOUS.

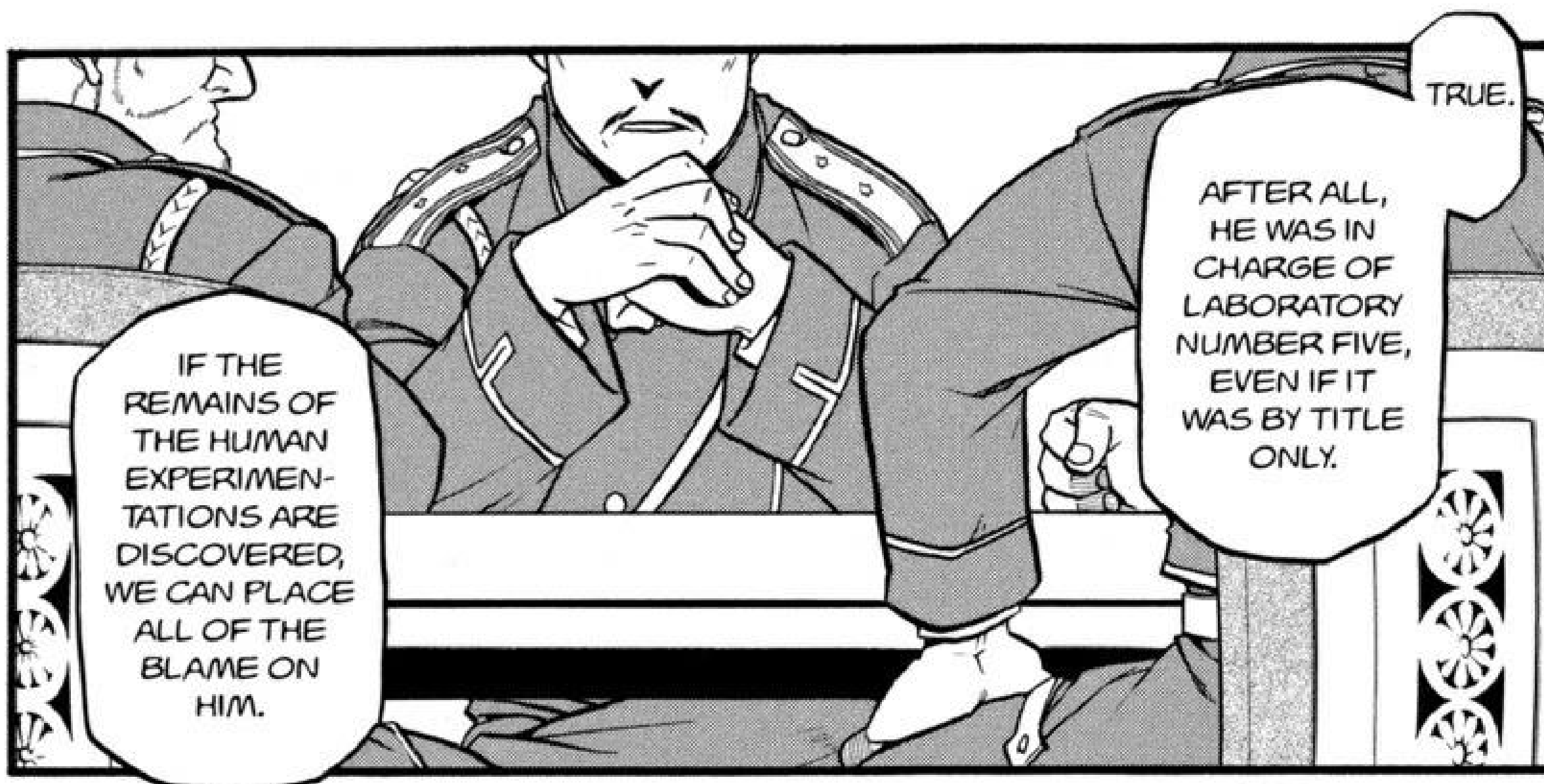


Chapter 52

Lord Of The Demon's Lair

GRIN





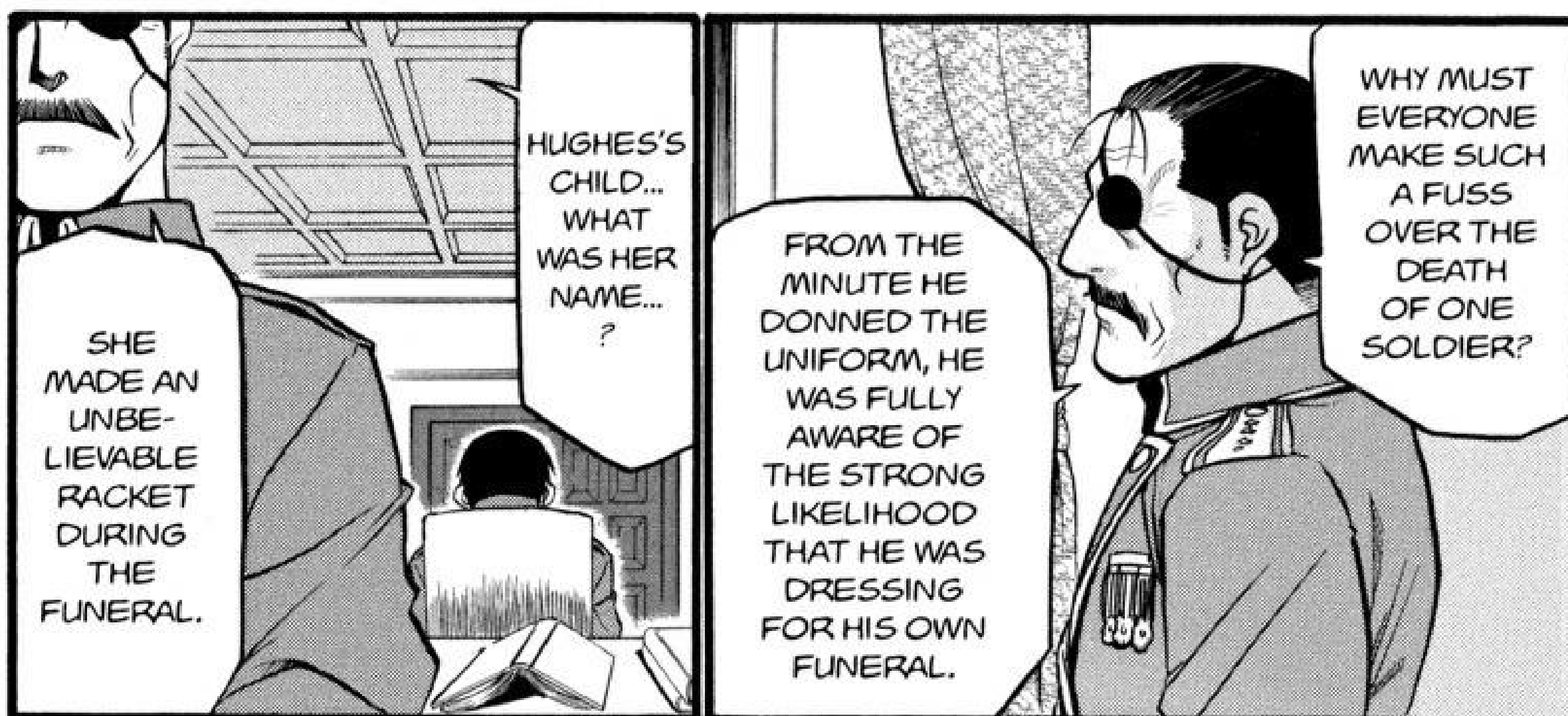




AT
COMMODORE
HUGHES'S
FUNERAL,
YOUR HANDS
WERE
TREMBLING.

YOU MUST
HAVE BEEN
HAVING
QUITE A
LAUGH,
WATCHING
US
STRUGGLE
ALL THIS
TIME.

WAS
THAT
JUST
AN
ACT
?



HUGHES'S
CHILD...
WHAT
WAS HER
NAME...
?

SHE
MADE AN
UNBE-
LIEVABLE
RACKET
DURING
THE
FUNERAL.

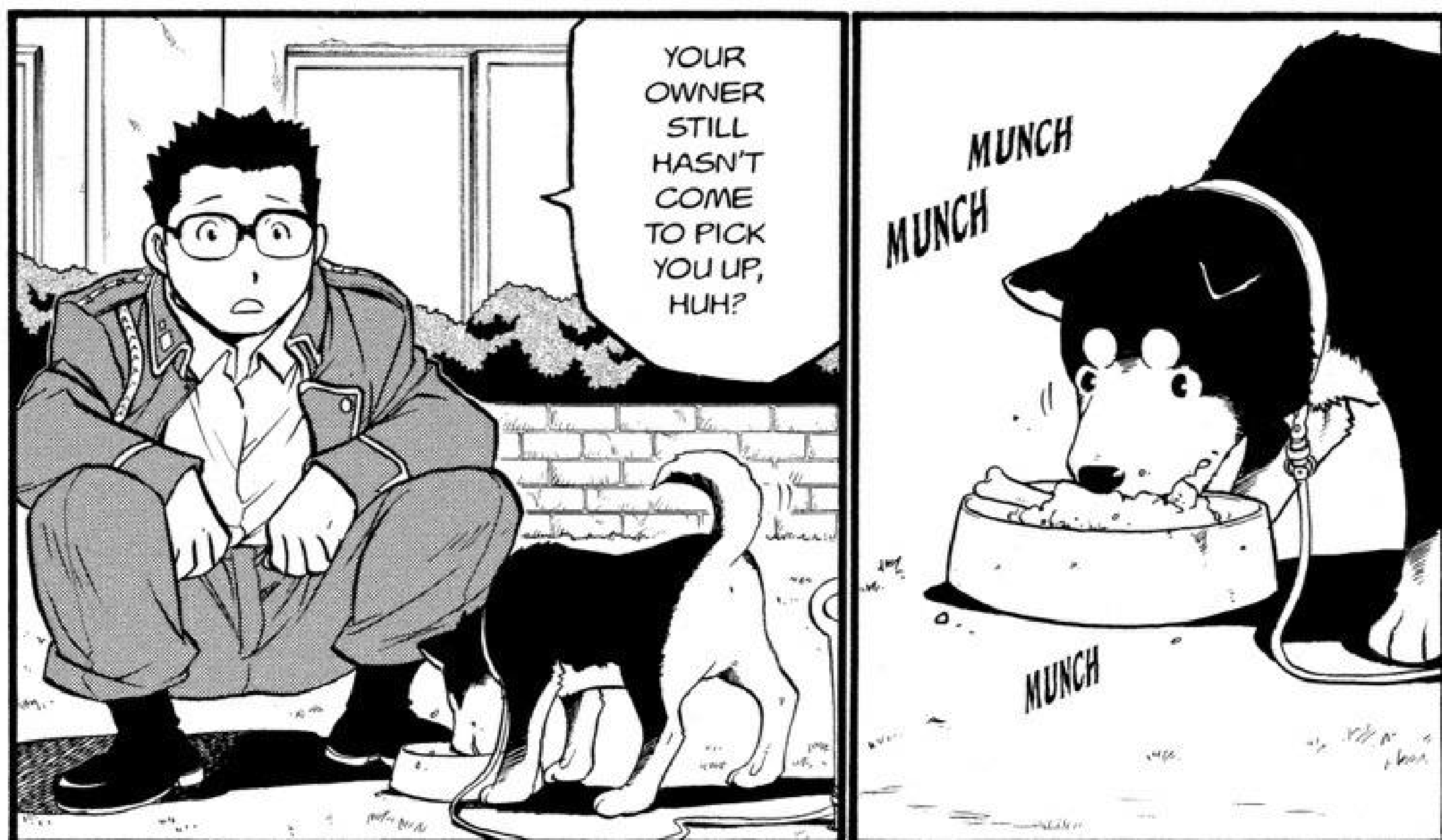
FROM THE
MINUTE HE
DONNED THE
UNIFORM, HE
WAS FULLY
AWARE OF
THE STRONG
LIKELIHOOD
THAT HE WAS
DRESSING
FOR HIS OWN
FUNERAL.

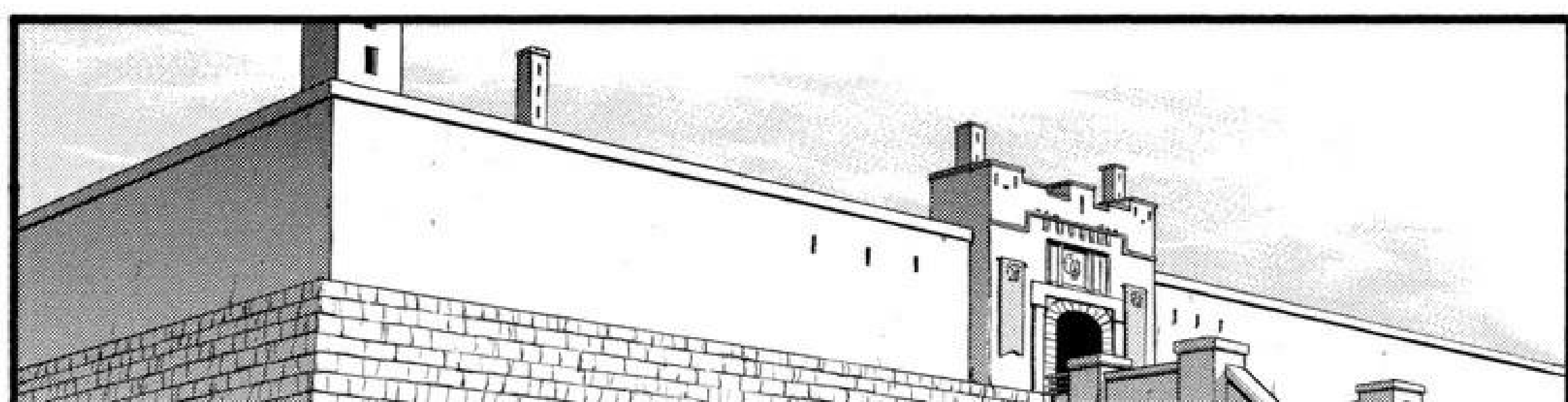
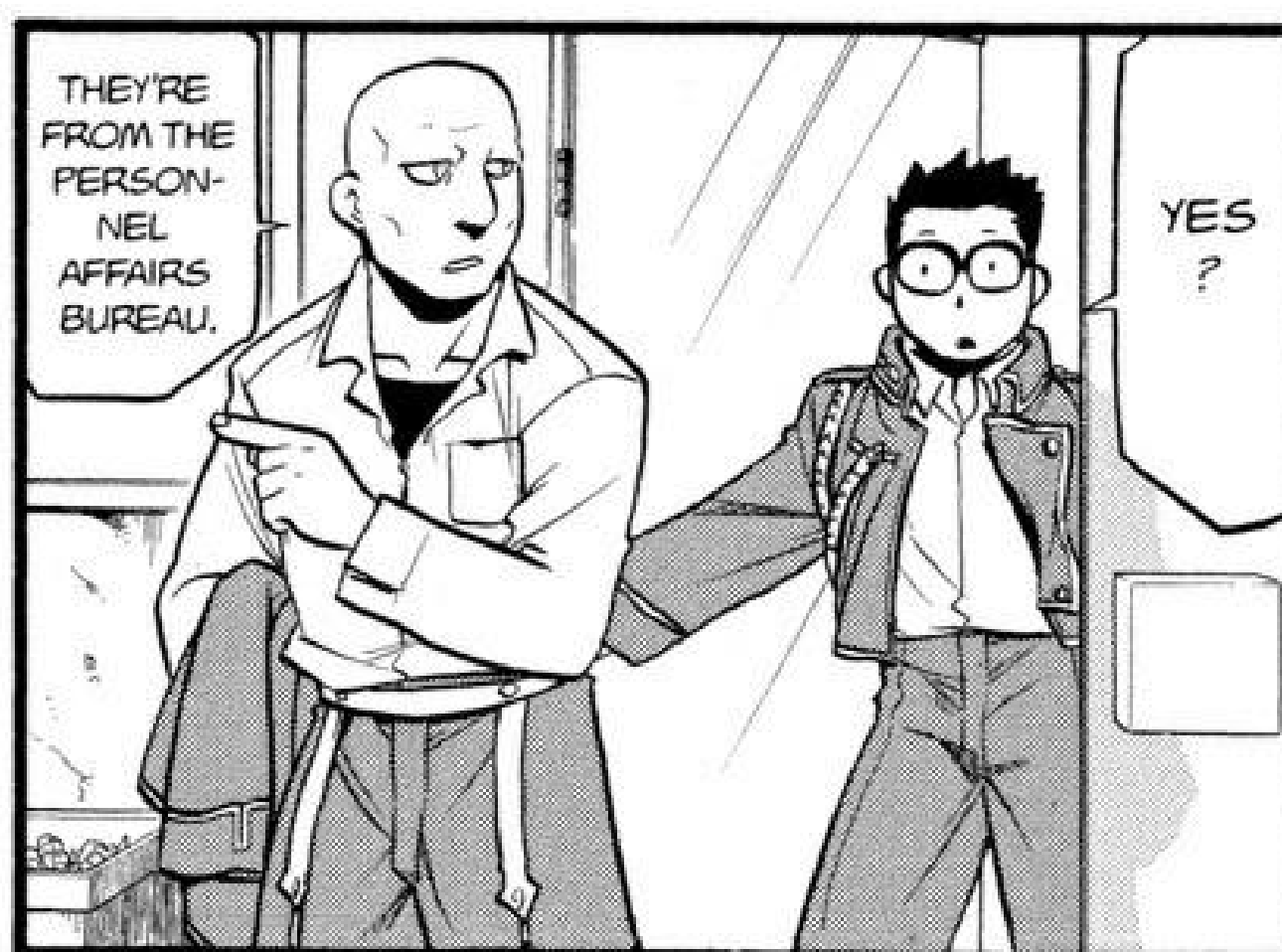
WHY MUST
EVERYONE
MAKE SUCH
A FUSS
OVER THE
DEATH
OF ONE
SOLDIER?

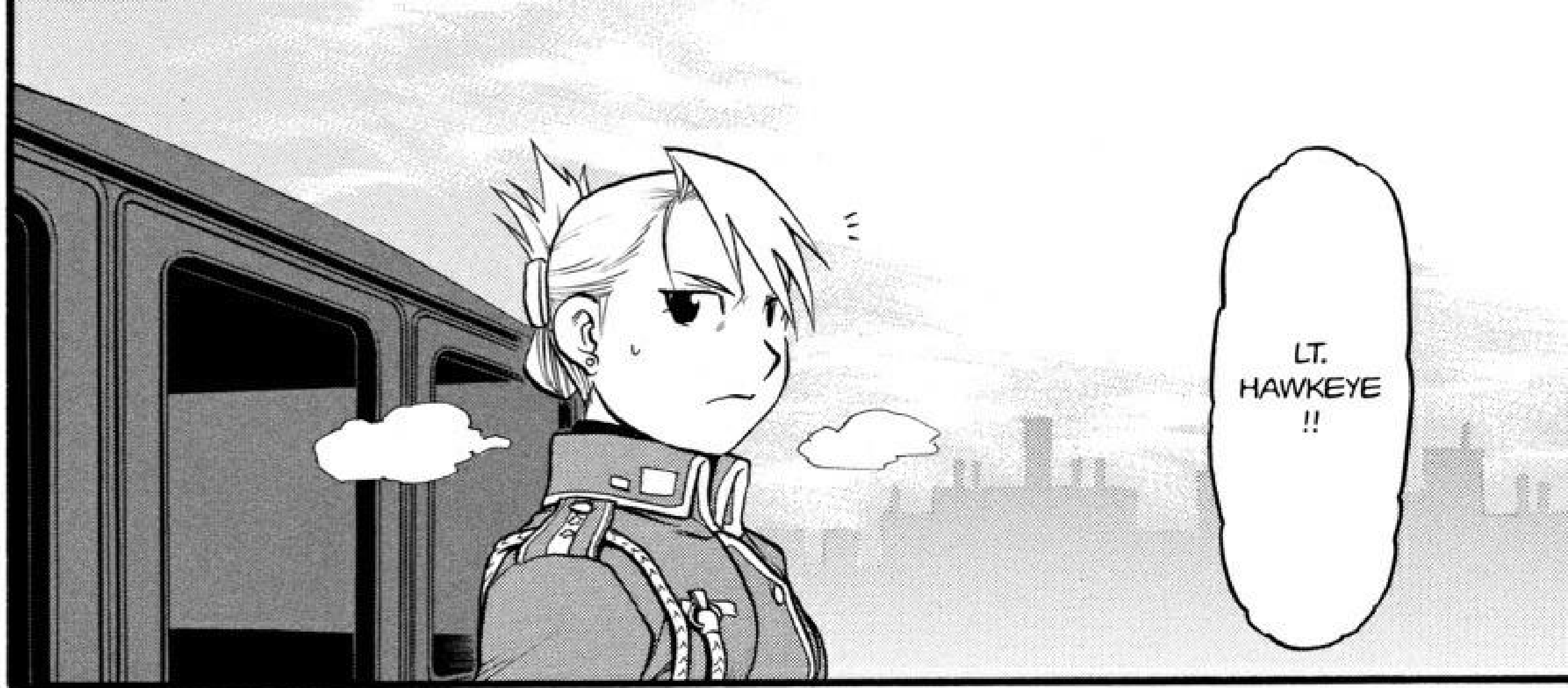


MY FISTS
WERE
TREMBLING
WITH
ANGER.

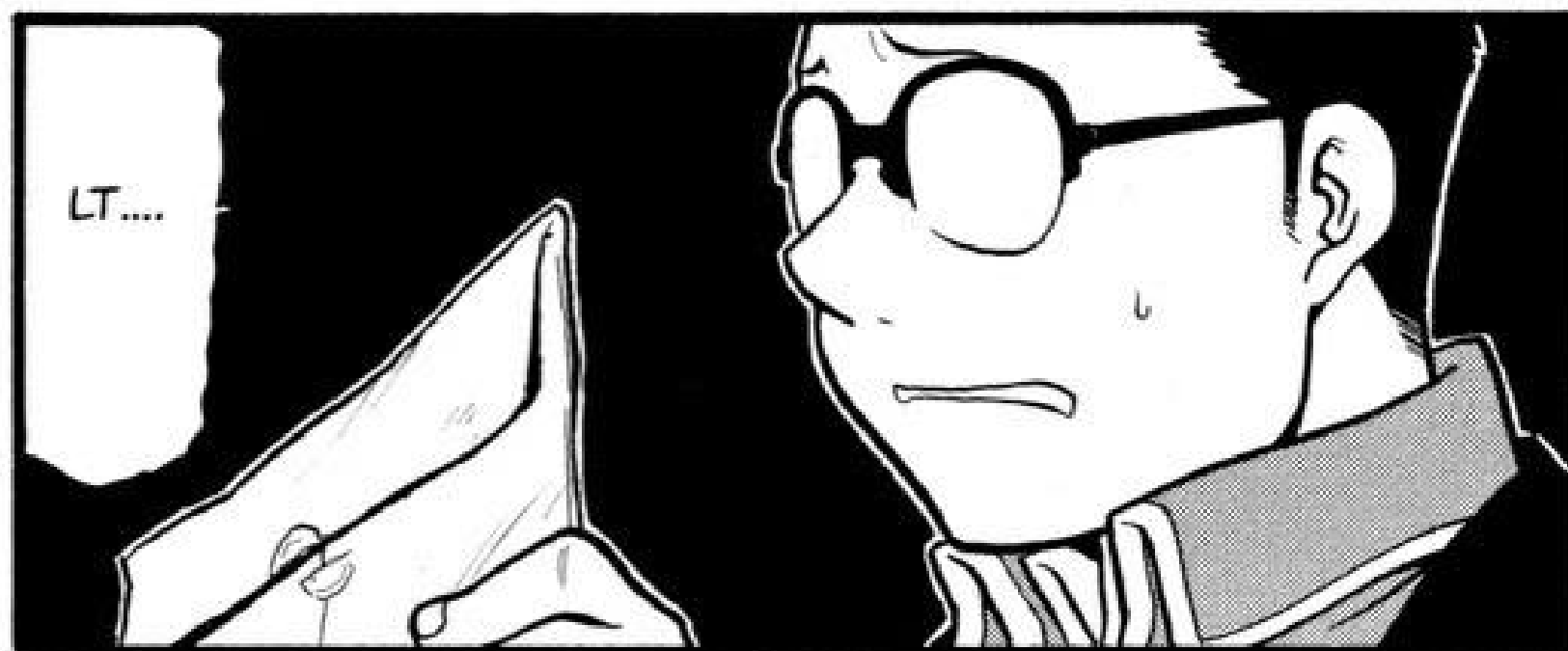




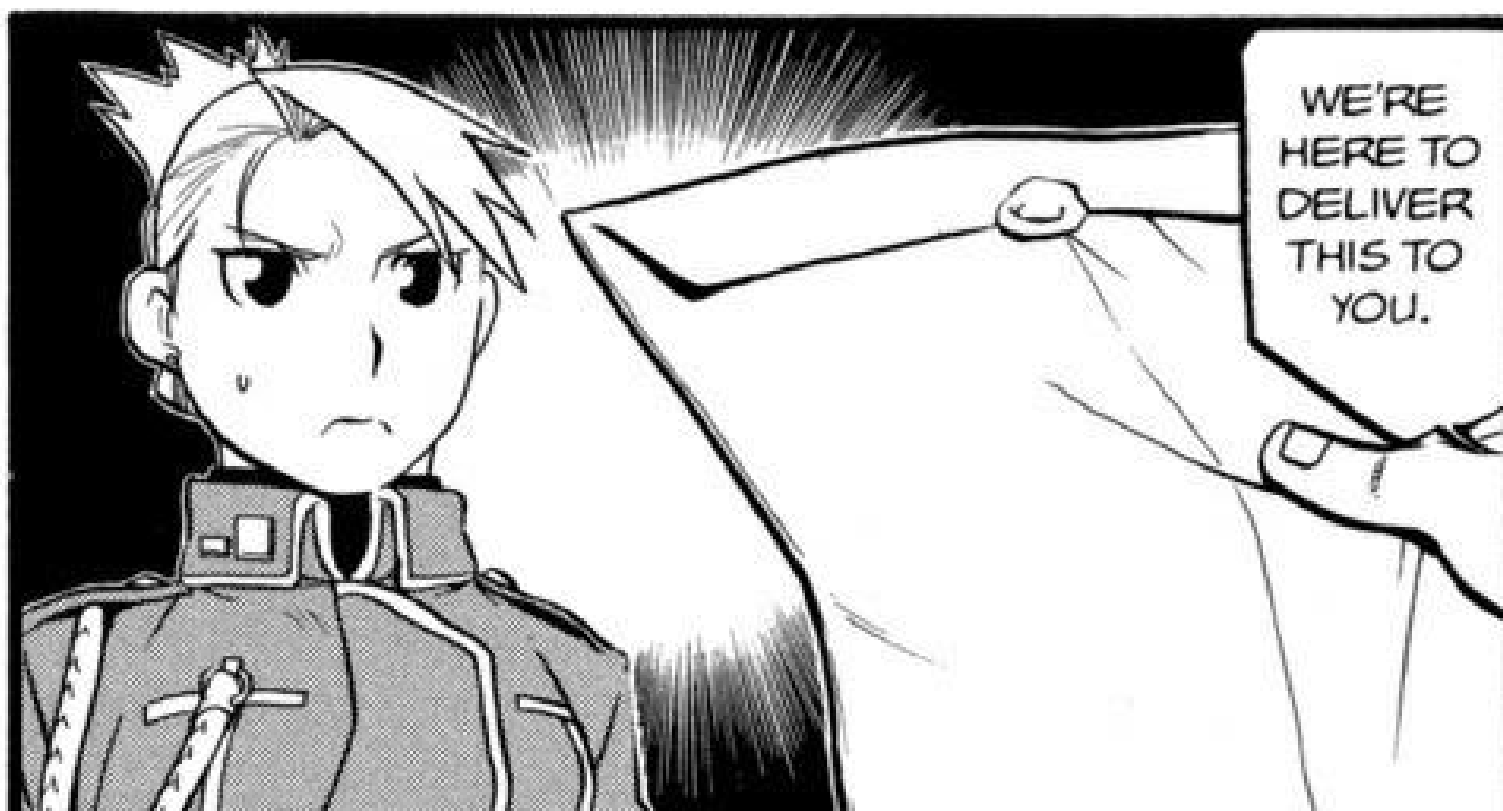
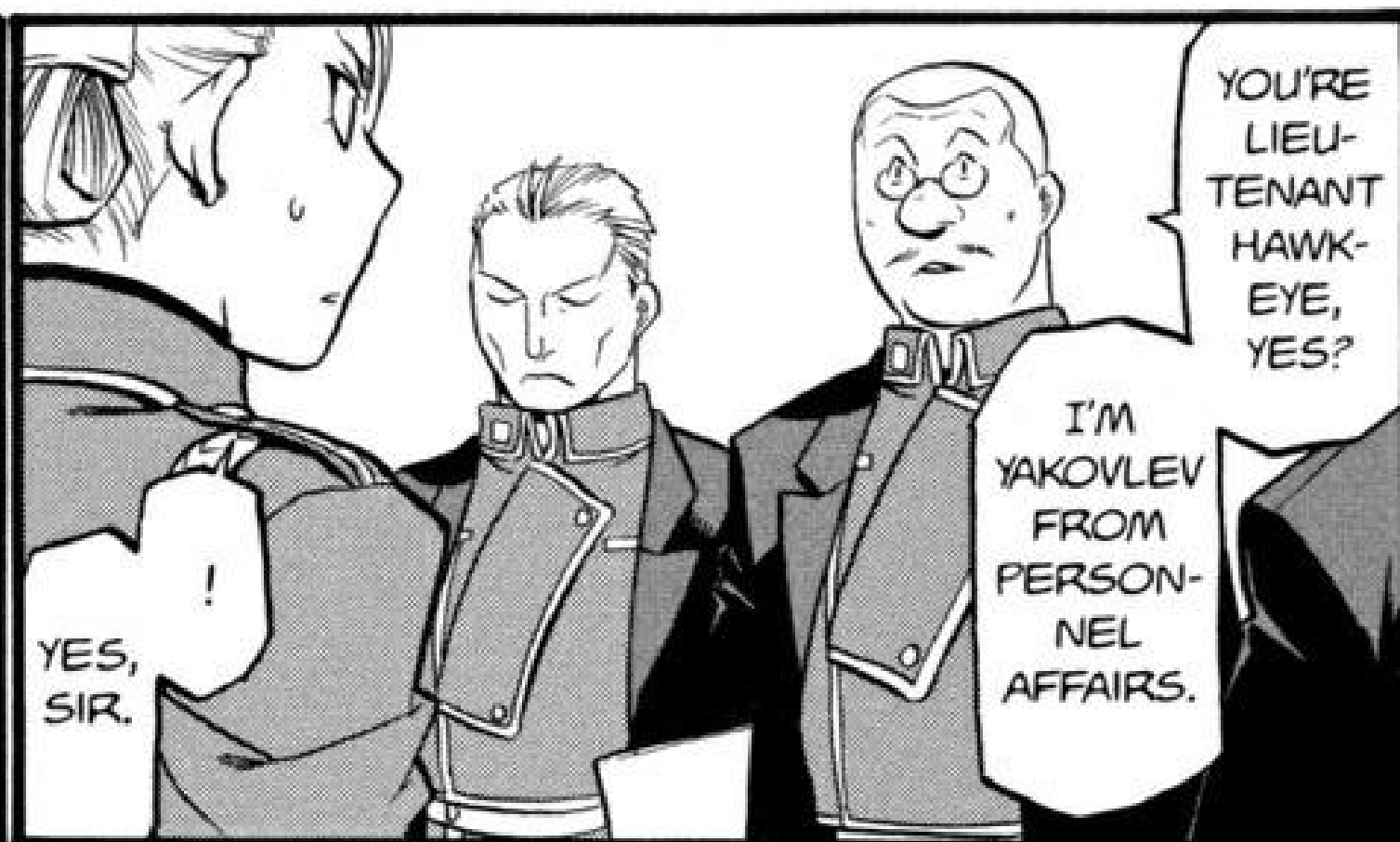
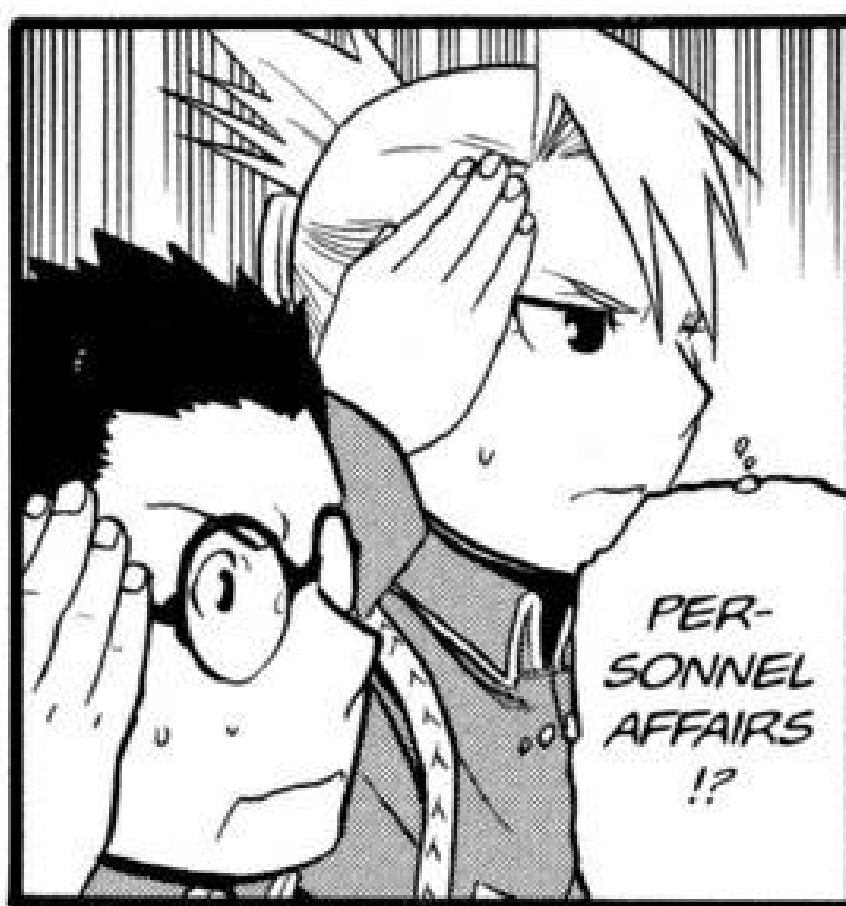


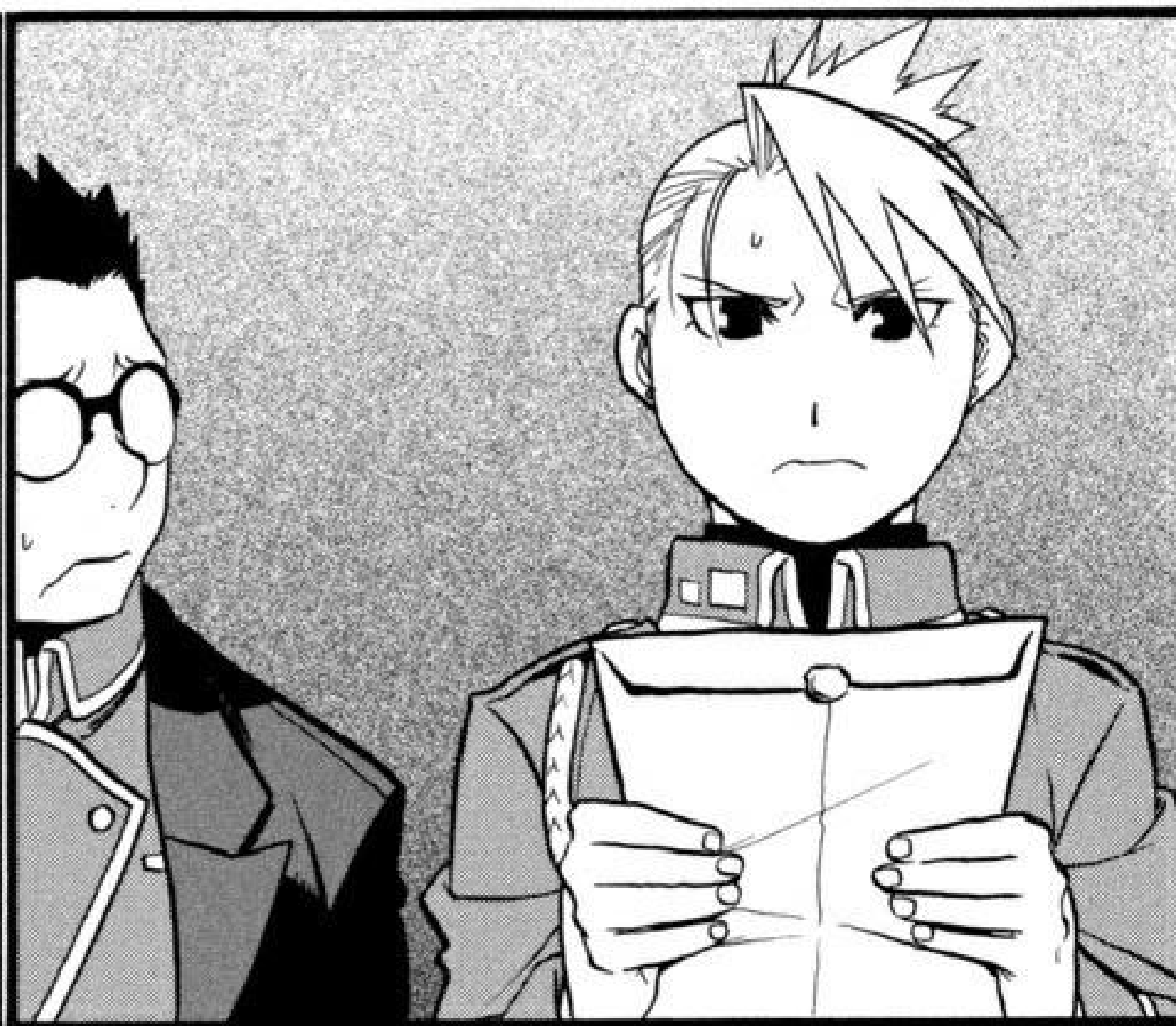
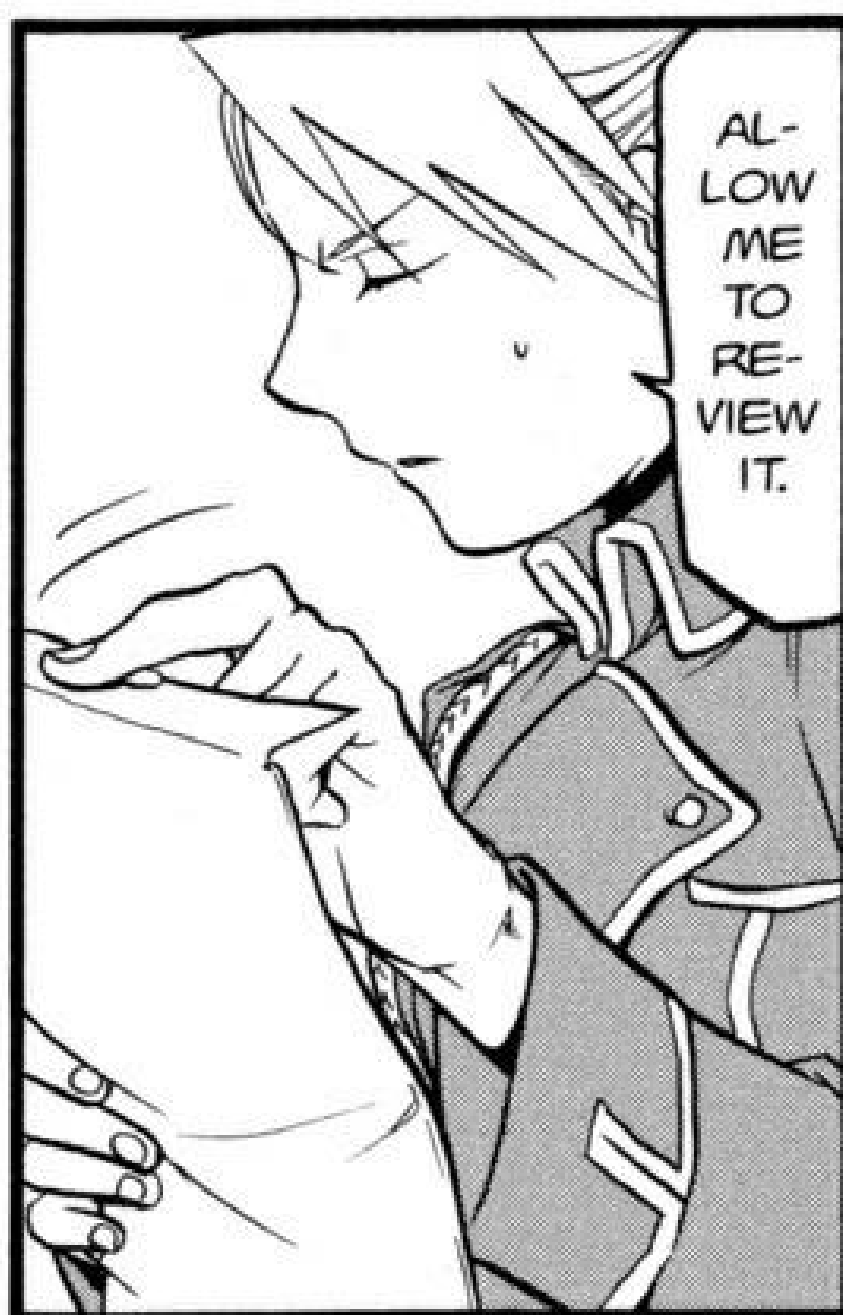


THE COLONEL PAID A VISIT TO MILITARY COMMAND LAST NIGHT AND HASN'T COME OUT SINCE.











THIS
CAN'T
BE
!!



I'M
AFRAID
YOU
CAN-
NOT
RE-
FUSE.



WHAT
KIND OF
ORDERS
ARE
THESE!?



CENTRAL
CITY!!
BUT
THAT'S
GREAT
NEWS--

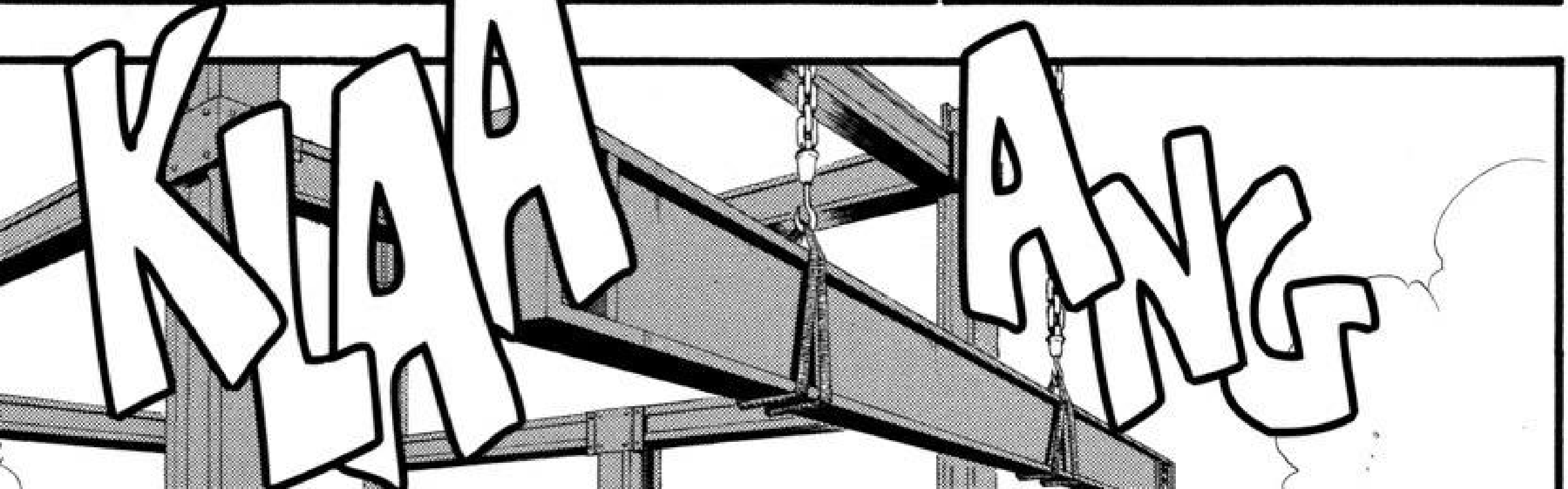
"LT.
RIZA
HAWK-
EYE,
REPORT
TOMOR-
ROW...

"...TO
CENTRAL
CITY
HQ...



WHERE
ARE
THEY
SENDING
YOU,
LT.?

...





I
REMEMBER
ITS
UNUSUAL
MARKINGS.

WHERE
DID
YOU
SEE
HER!?



OH
YEAH,
THAT
CAT.



CAN YOU
BE
MORE
SPECIFIC?

TRUST ME,
MISSY, YOU
CAN'T MISS
HIM. IT'S NOT
EVERYDAY YOU
SEE SOME-
ONE WALKIN'
AROUND
TOWN IN
FULL PLATE
ARMOR.

AND I
THINK
HE HAD
A BIG
HORN
THAT
STUCK
OUT
LIKE
THIS.



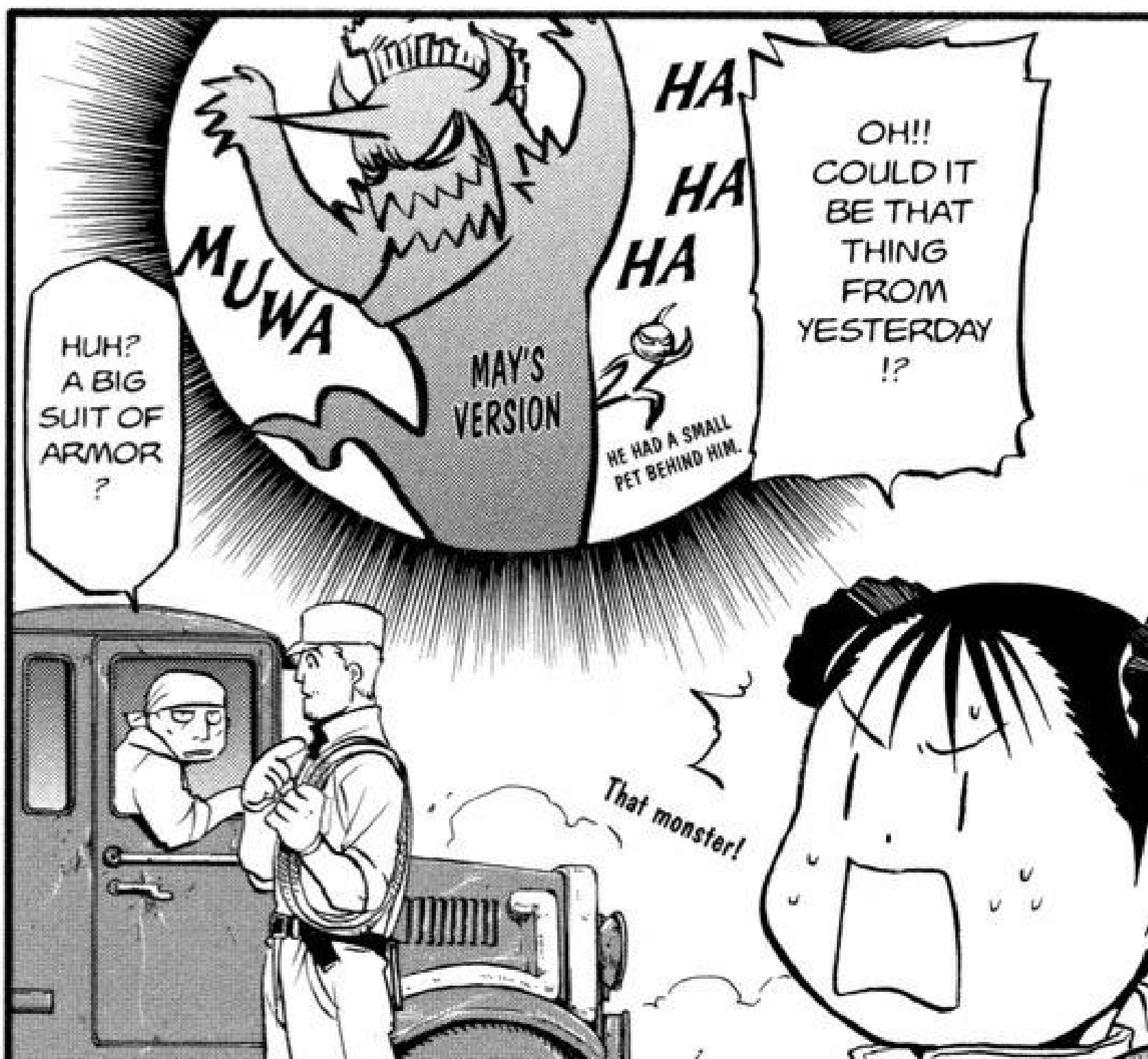
HEY, WASN'T
THERE SOME
GUY IN A BIG
SUIT OF ARMOR
CARRYING A
CAT LIKE THIS?
YESTERDAY
EVENING
OR SO?

A BIG
SUIT
OF
ARMOR
?



DID YOU
HEAR
THAT,
LITTLE
GIRL?

I SAW HIM
EARLIER
NEAR THE
ABANDONED
FACTORY.



HUH?
A BIG
SUIT OF
ARMOR
?

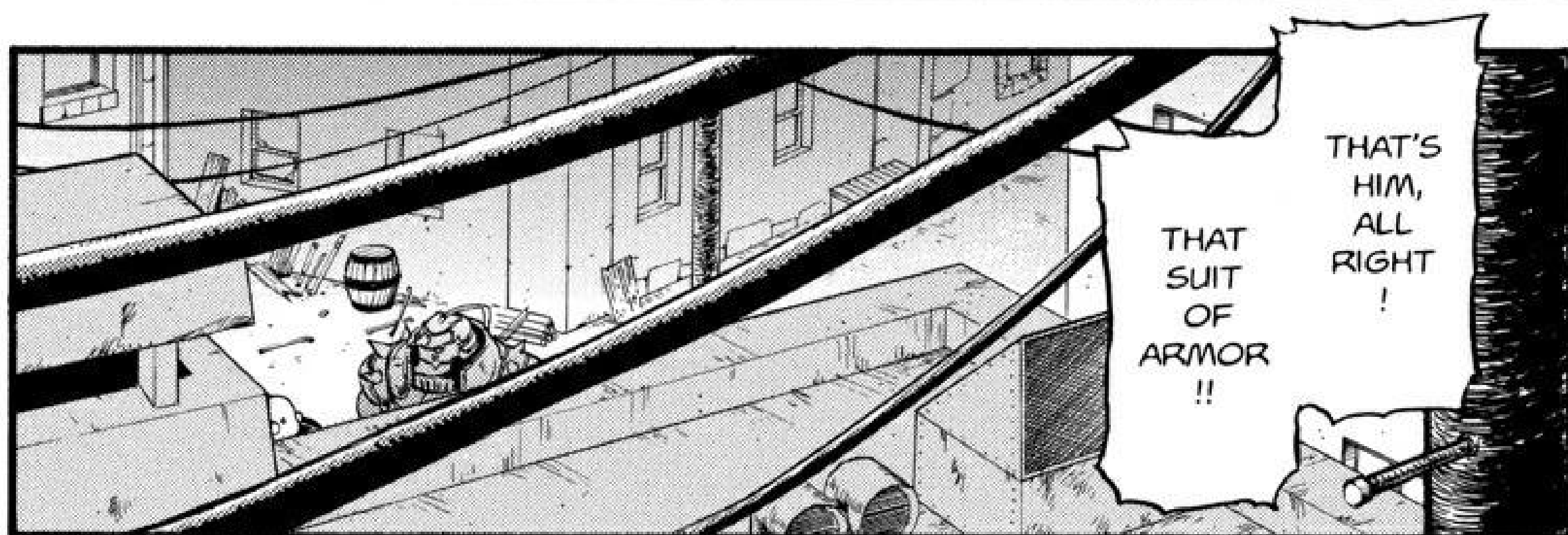
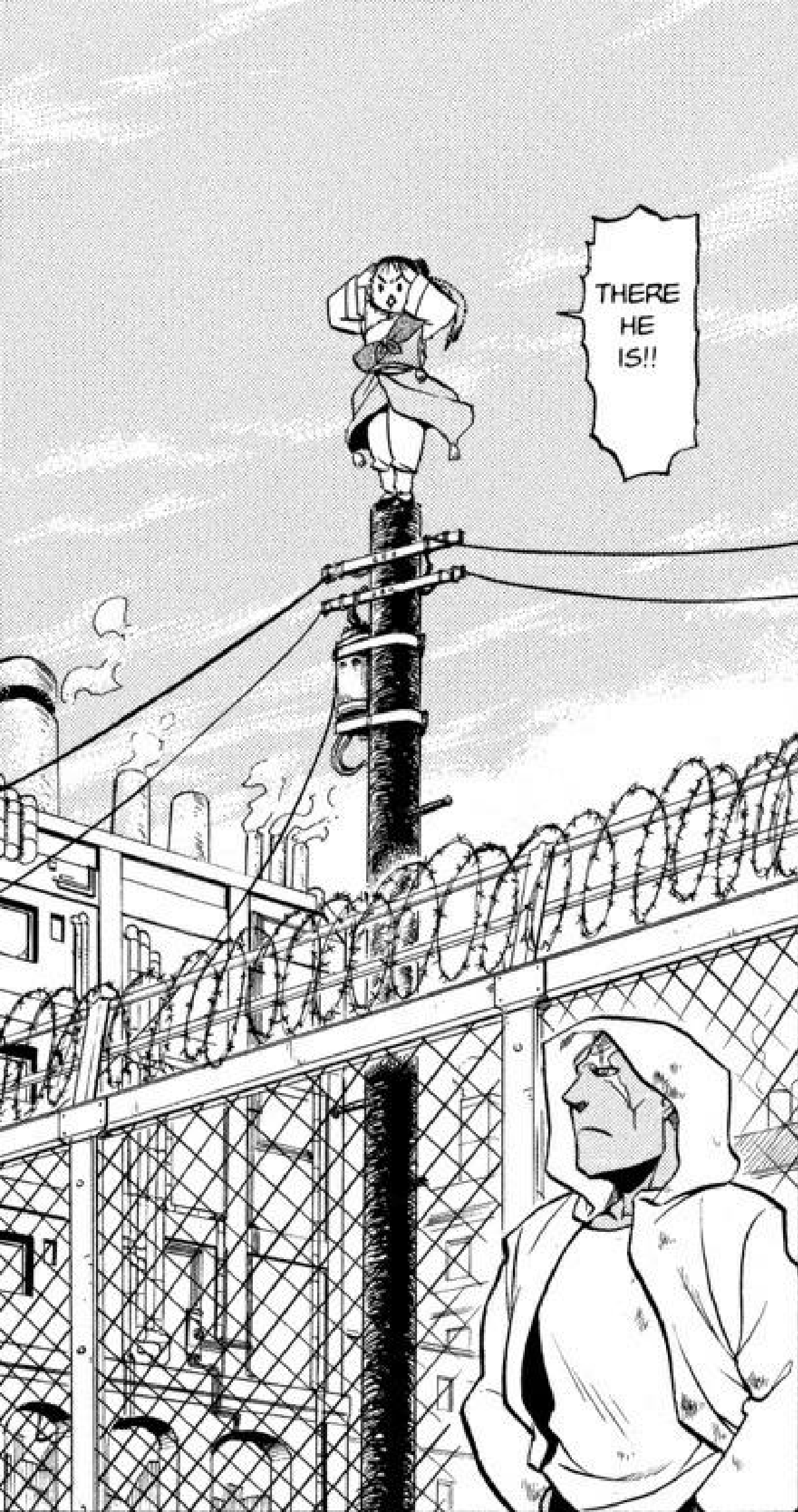
HA
HA
HA

MAY'S
VERSION

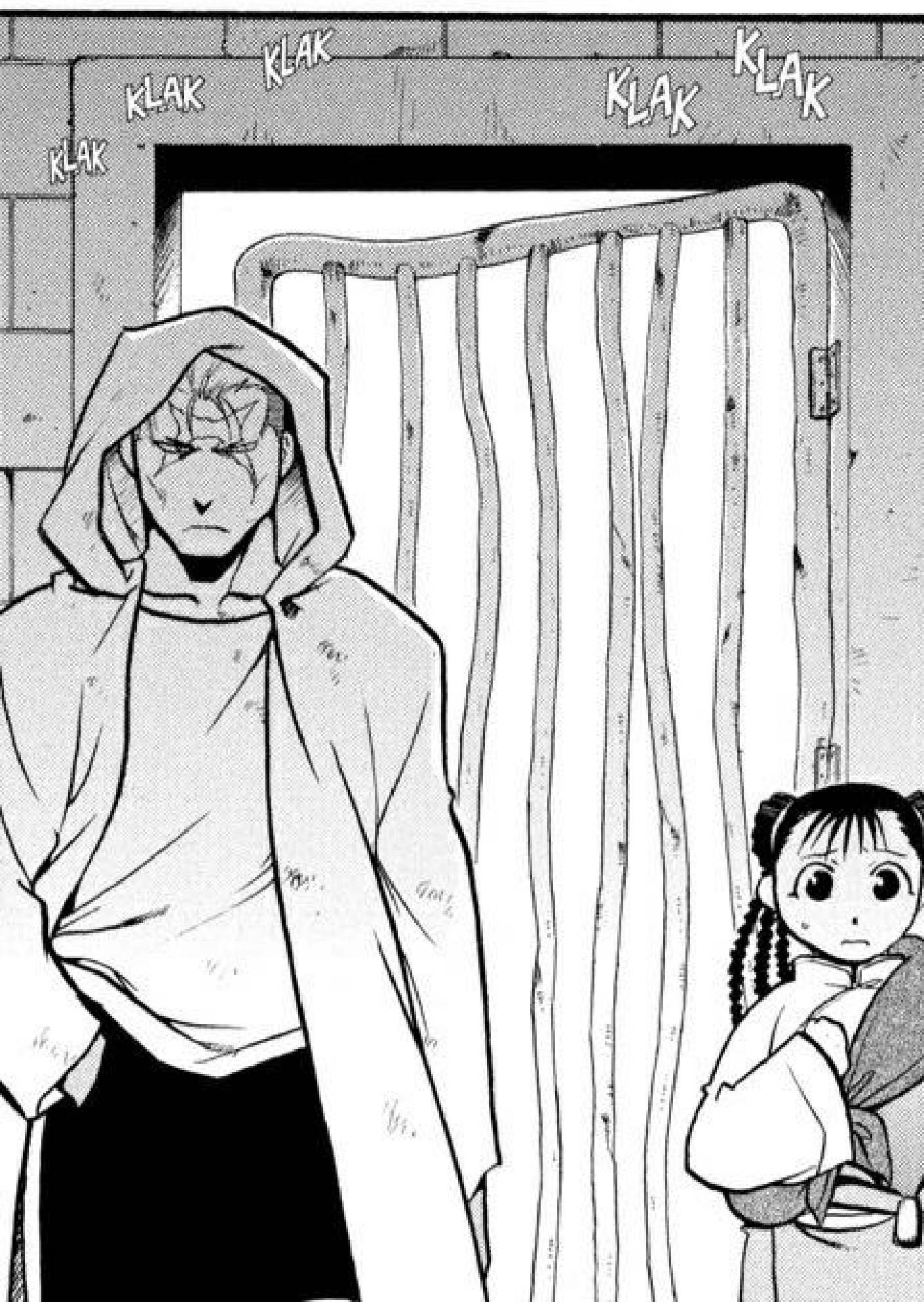
HE HAD A SMALL
PET BEHIND HIM.

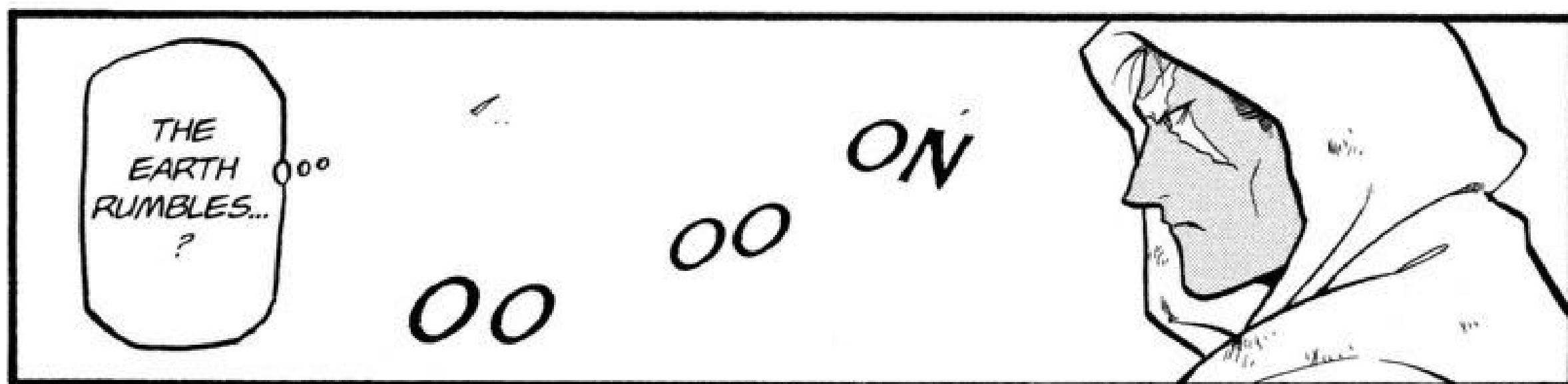
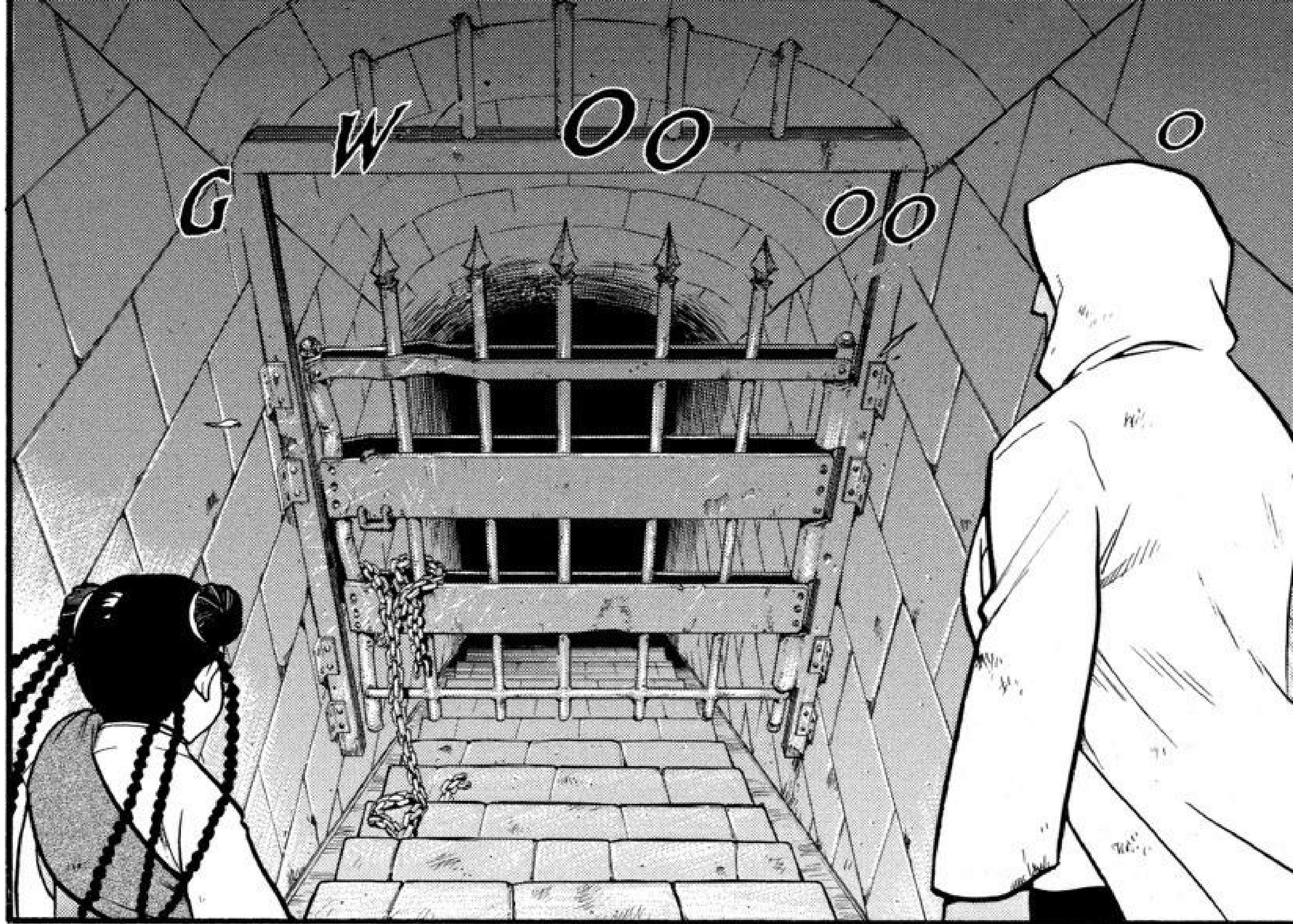
OH!!
COULD IT
BE THAT
THING
FROM
YESTERDAY
!?

That monster!











THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS CRAWLING AROUND DOWN THERE...

BUT JUST NOW, I THINK I FOUND OUT WHERE THAT FEELING'S COMING FROM.



I'M SORRY, L'IL FELLA. I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE LEFT YOU UP ON THE STREET.

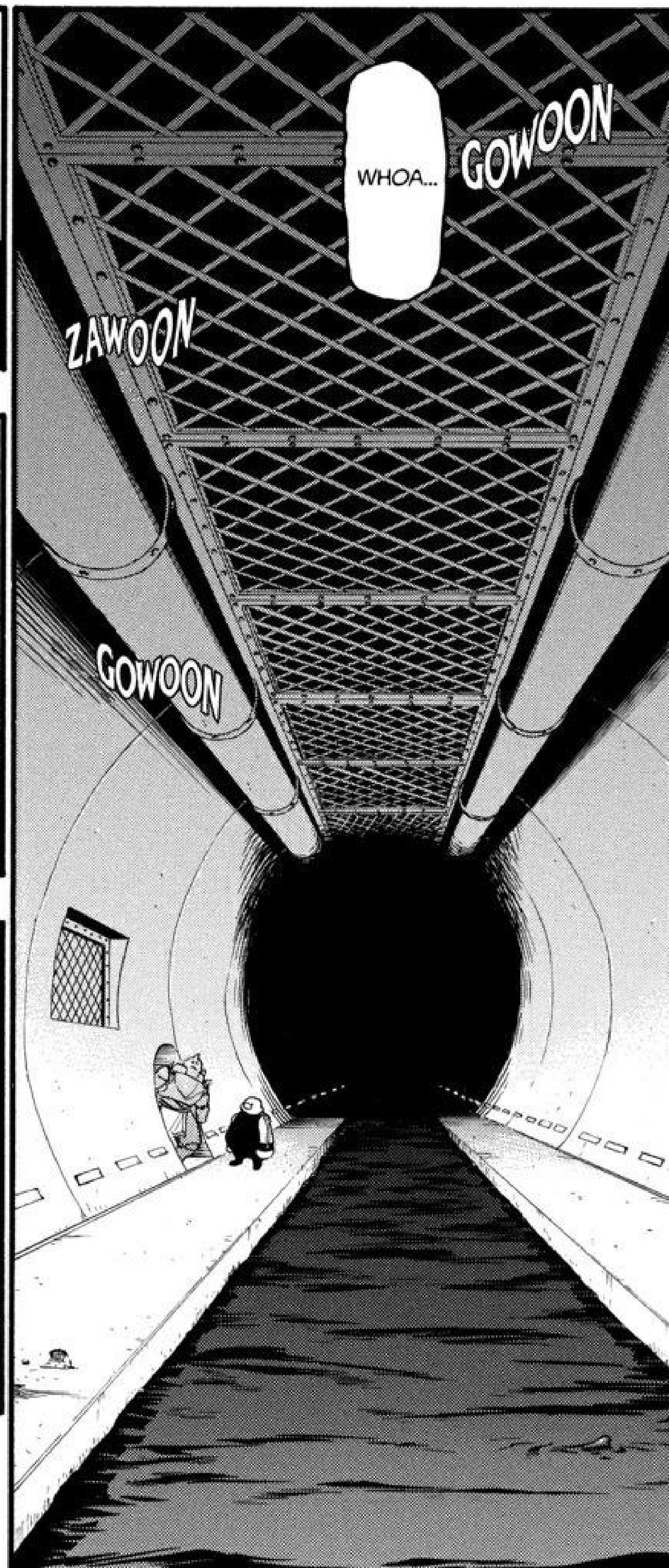
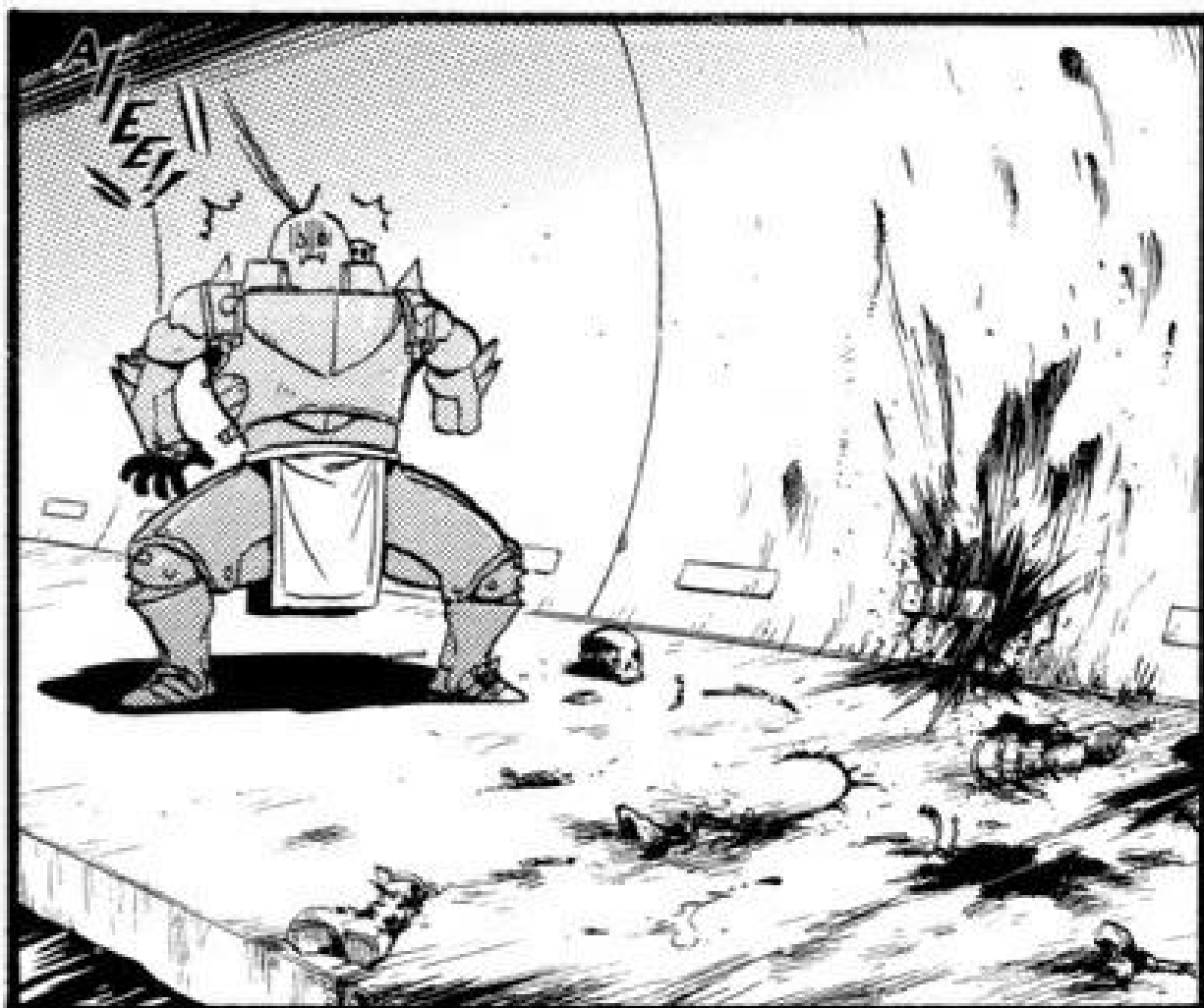
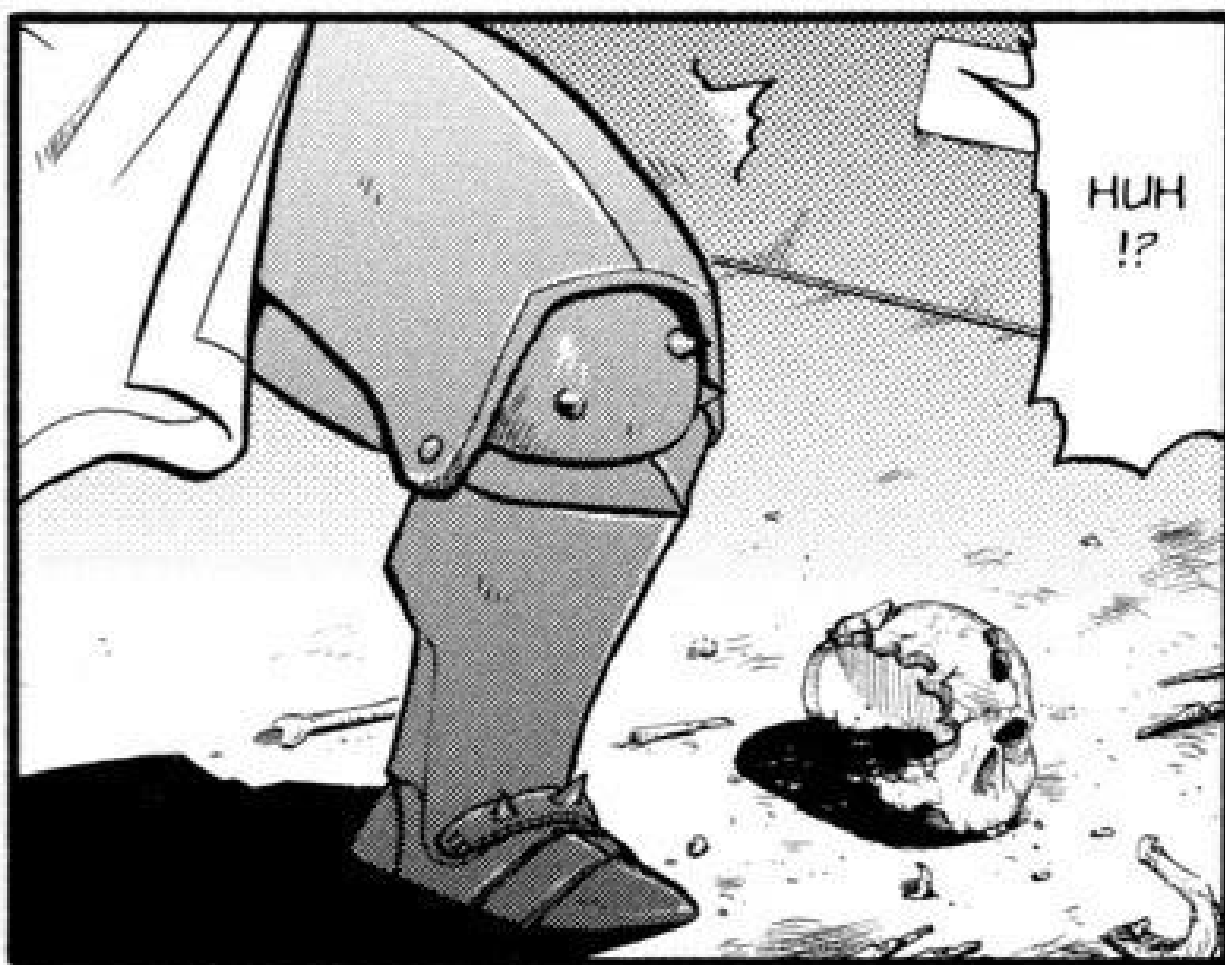
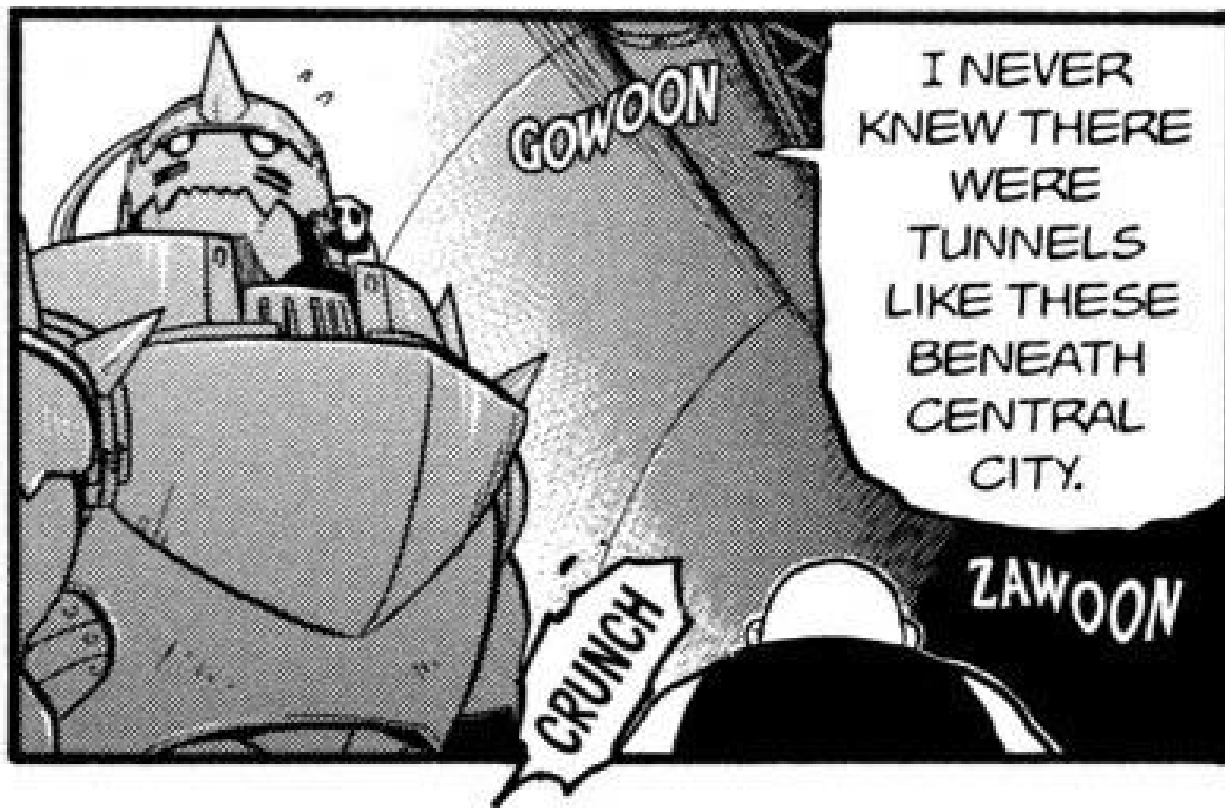
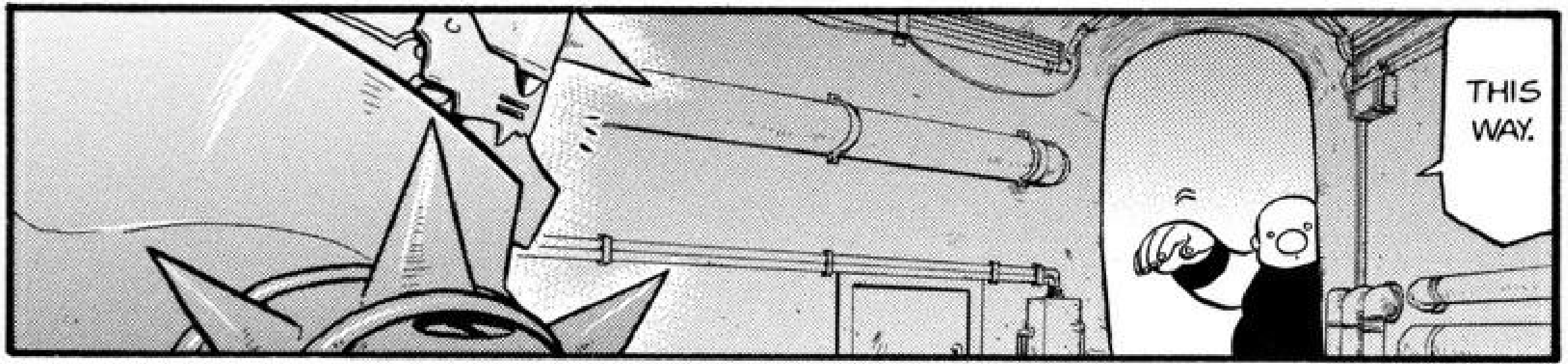
HUG

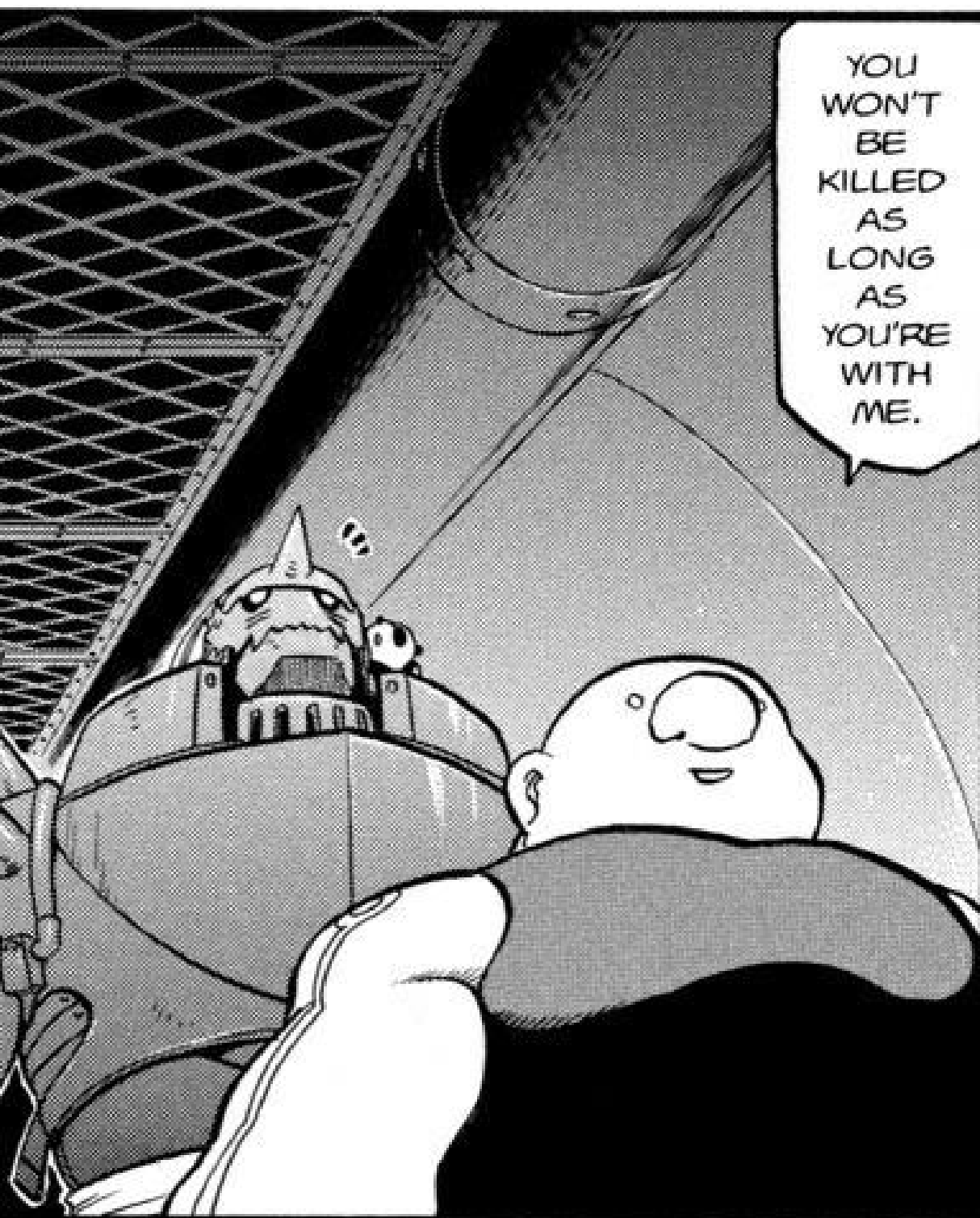
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET ATTACKED BY A STRAY DOG OR SOME-THING.

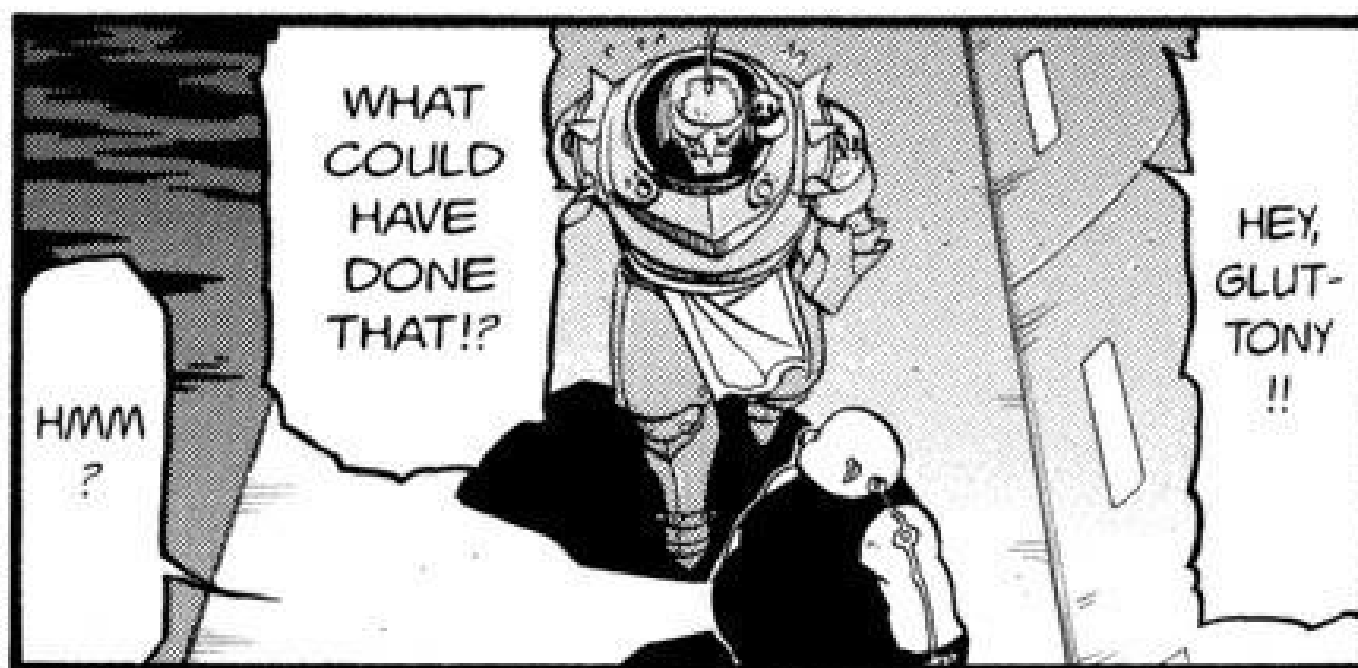
ARE YOU COLD?

TRMBLE
TRMBLE
TRMBLE





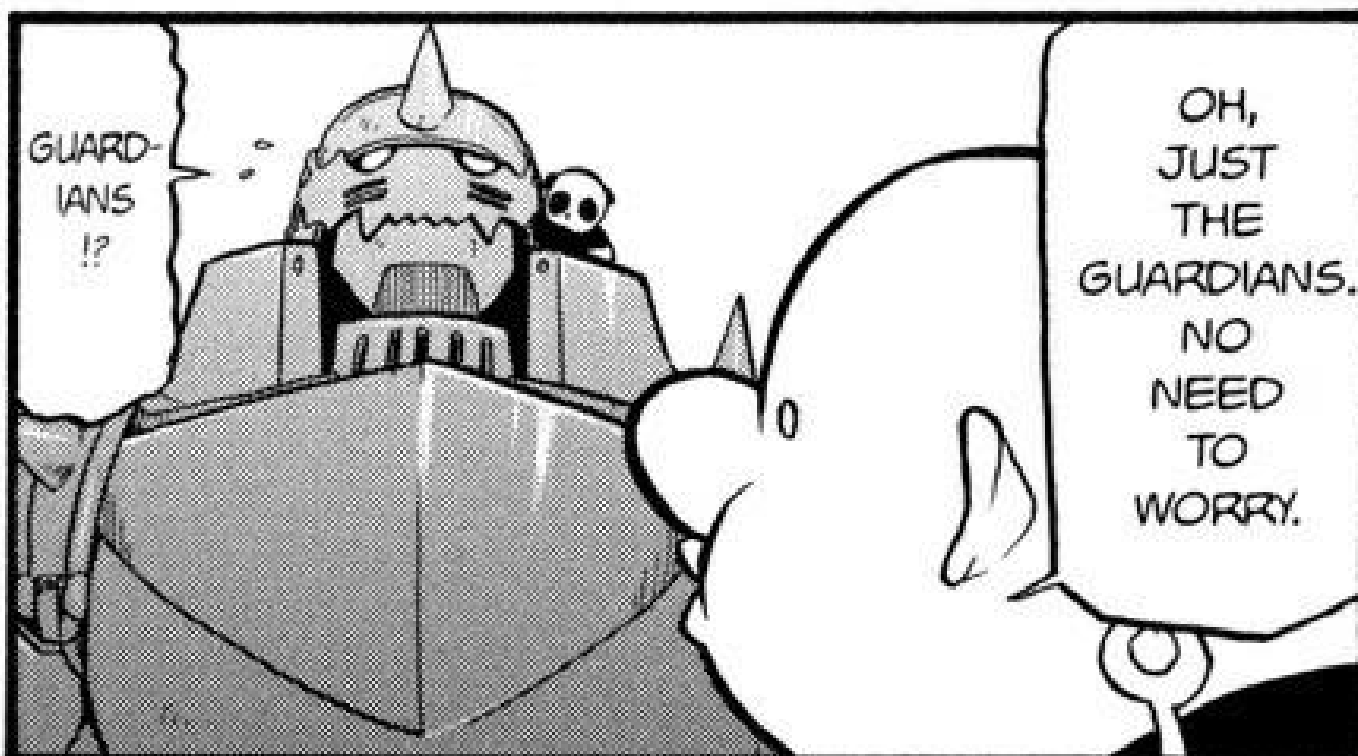
YOU
WON'T
BE
KILLED
AS
LONG
AS
YOU'RE
WITH
ME.



WHAT
COULD
HAVE
DONE
THAT!?

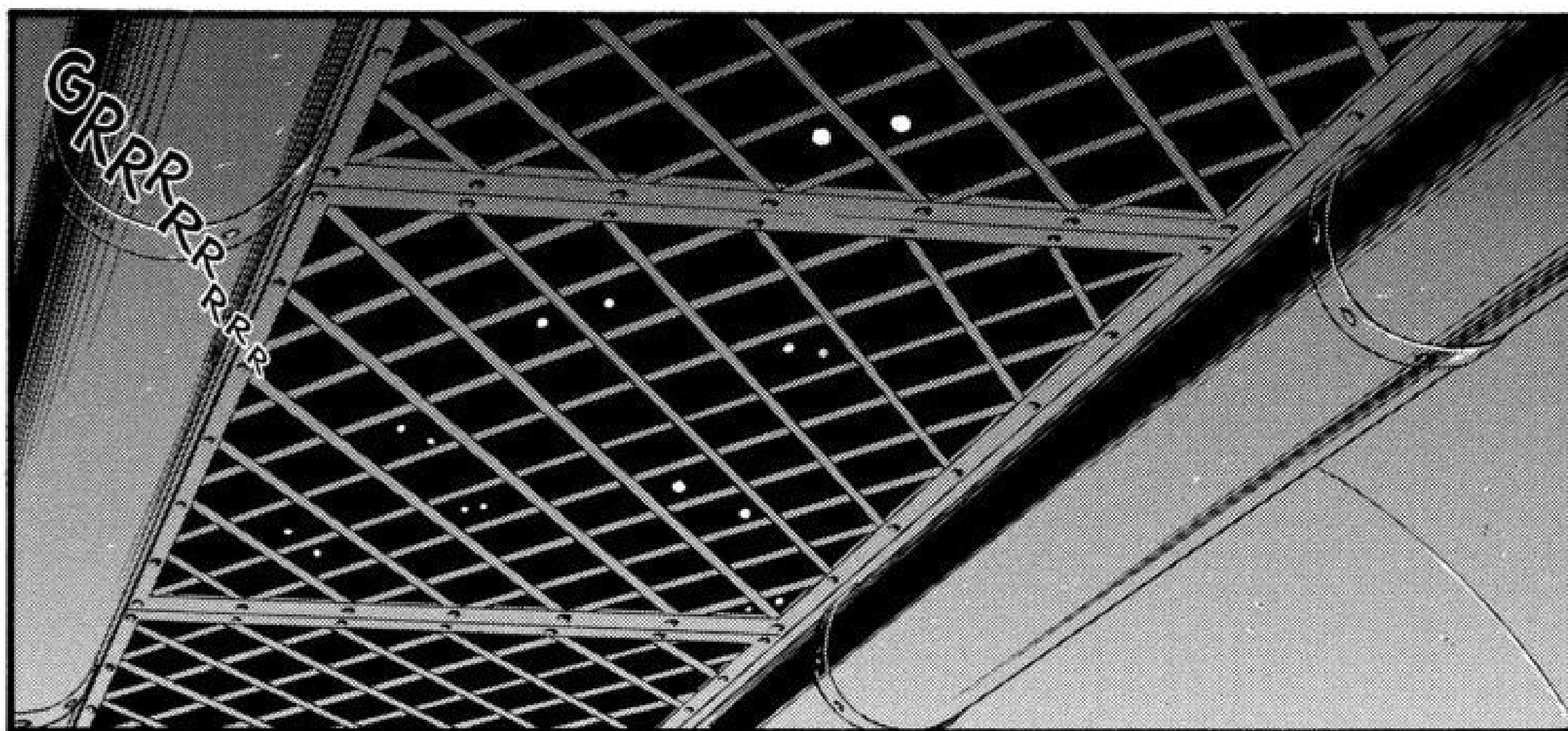
HMM
?

HEY,
GLUT-
TONY
!!

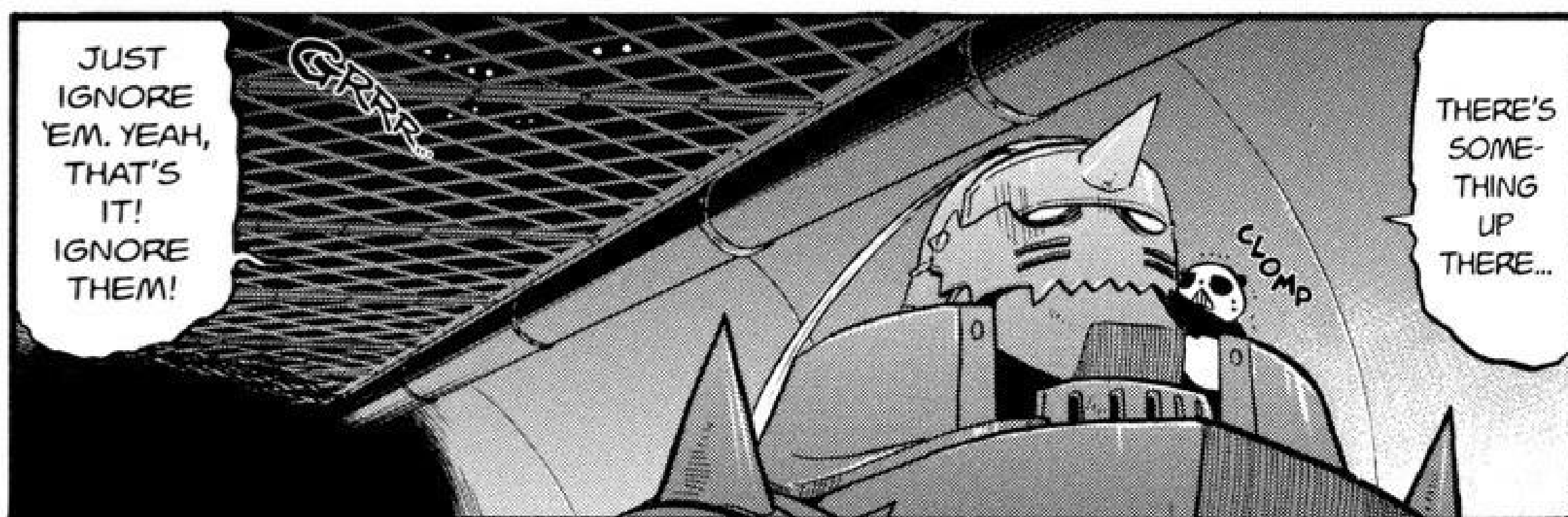


GUARD-
IANS
!?

OH,
JUST
THE
GUARDIANS.
NO
NEED
TO
WORRY.



GRRRRRRR

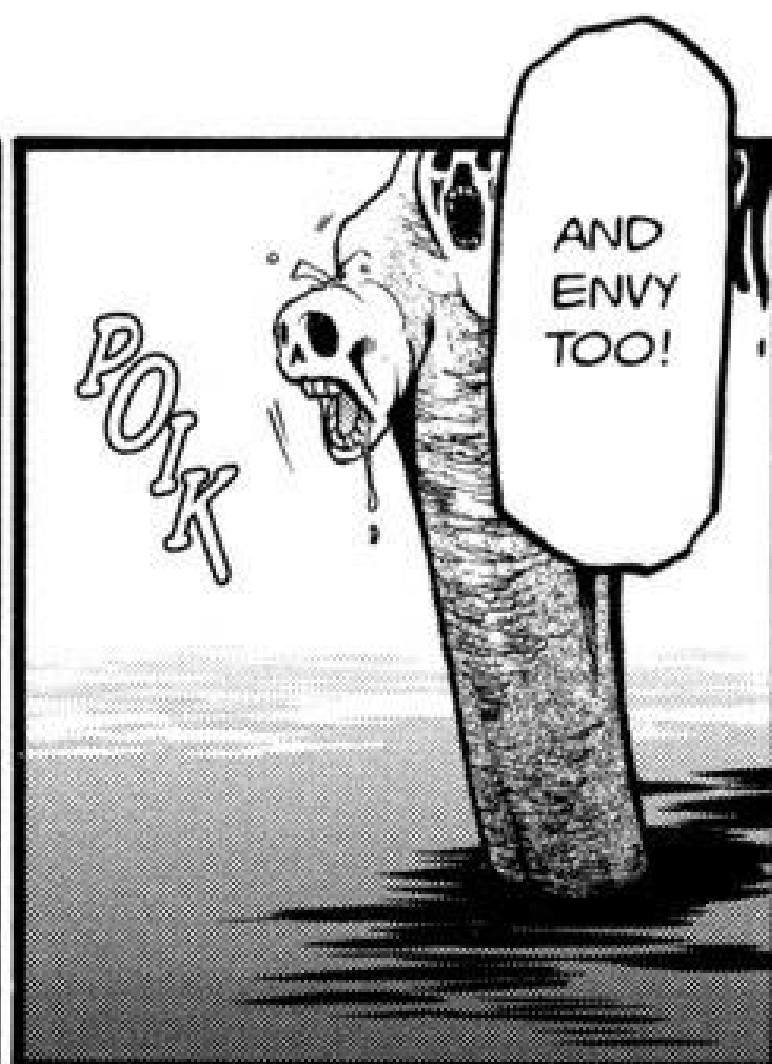
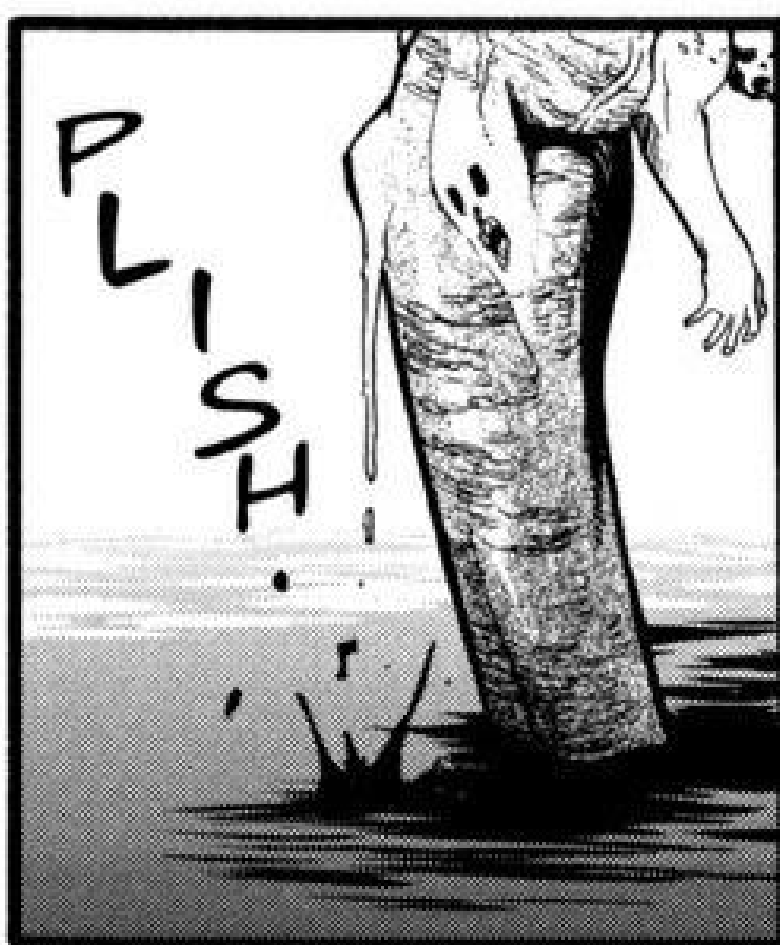
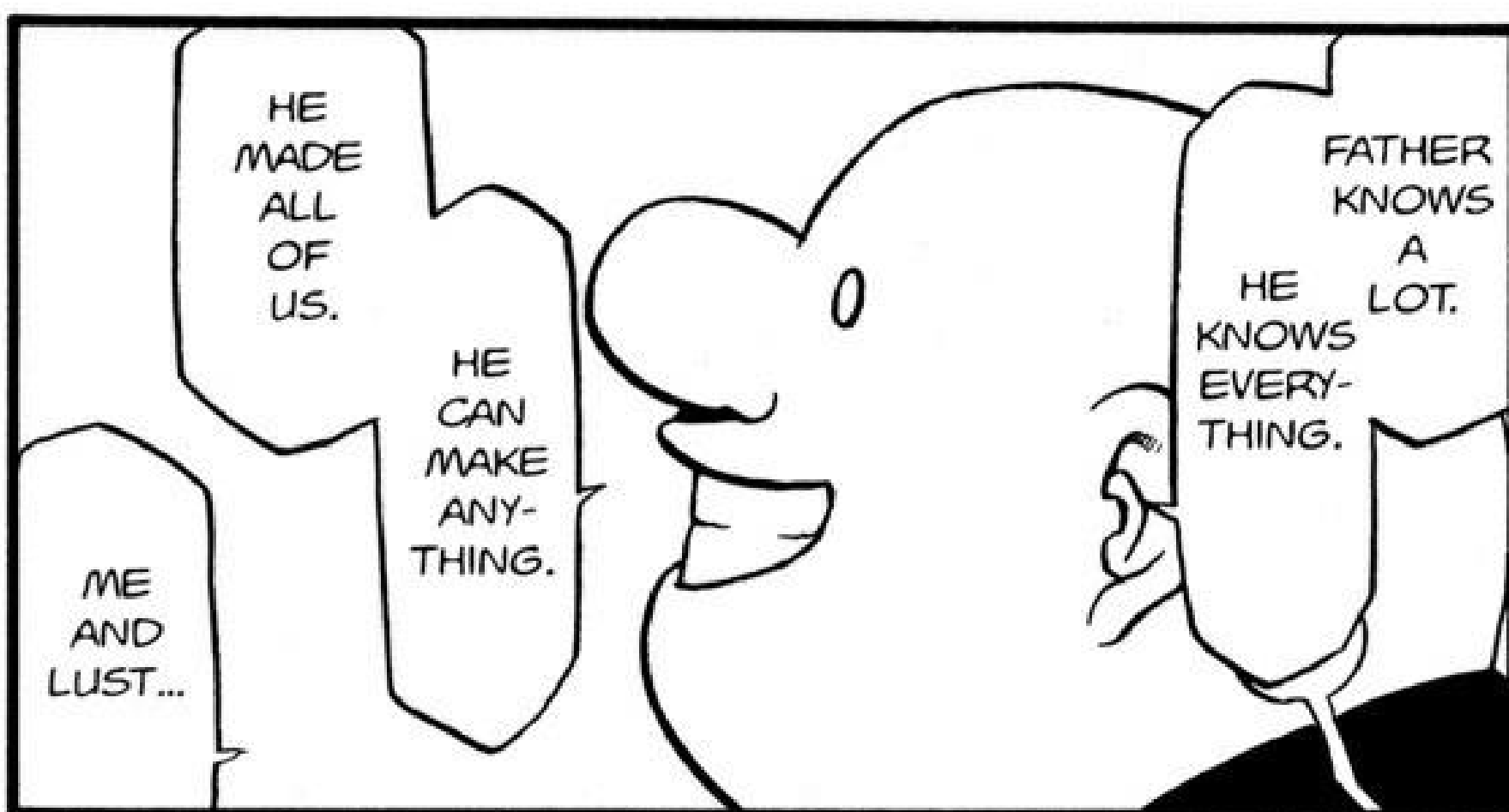


JUST
IGNORE
'EM. YEAH,
THAT'S
IT!
IGNORE
THEM!

THERE'S
SOME-
THING
UP
THERE...

GRRR

CLOMP







SUCH GAUVY
TASTE IN
BLADES.

SLAP

IT'S
A
SEA
OF
BLOOD.

SO
THERE'S
NO
SHORT-
AGE
OF
IRON.



I'M
PRETTY
BEAT UP
MYSELF.

I BROKE
TWO OR
THREE
RIBS
EARLIER.

THIS
ISN'T
GONNA
BE
EASY.



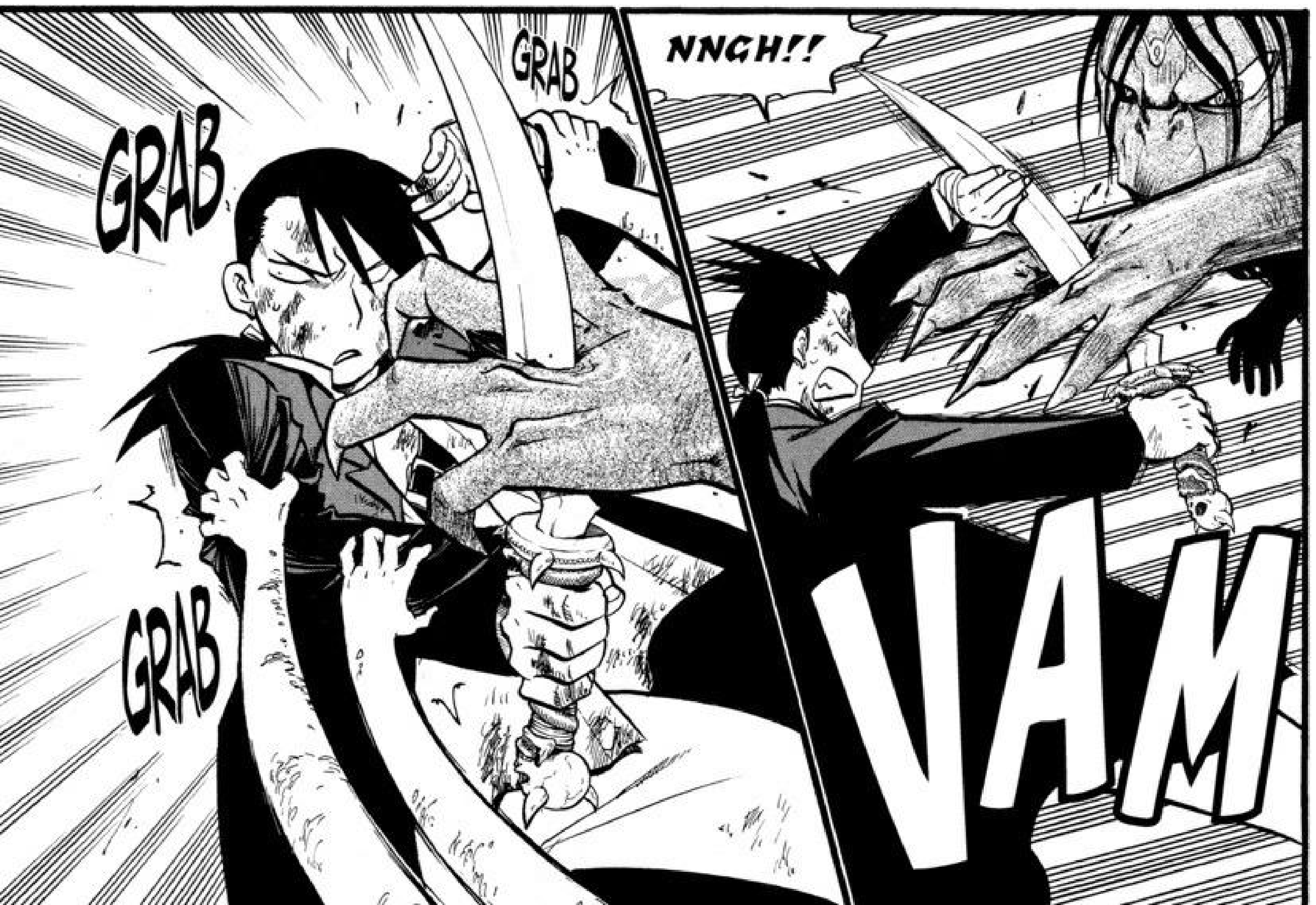
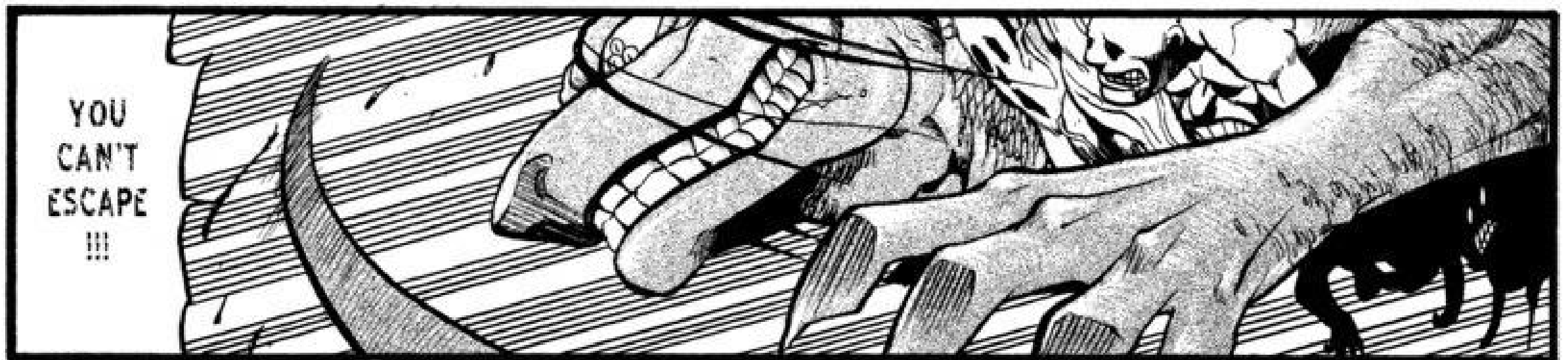
CAN
YOU
FIGHT
?

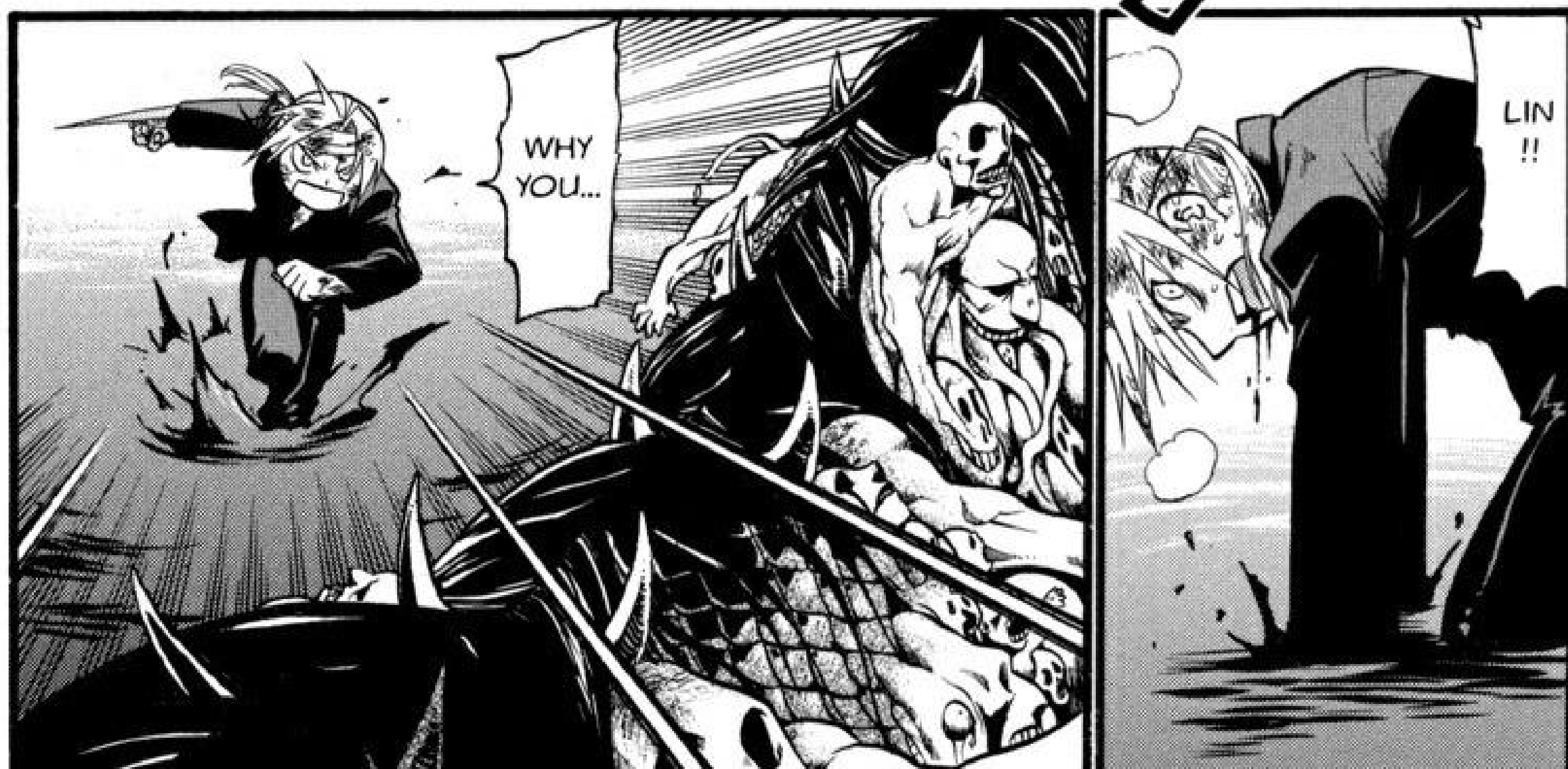
BZZT

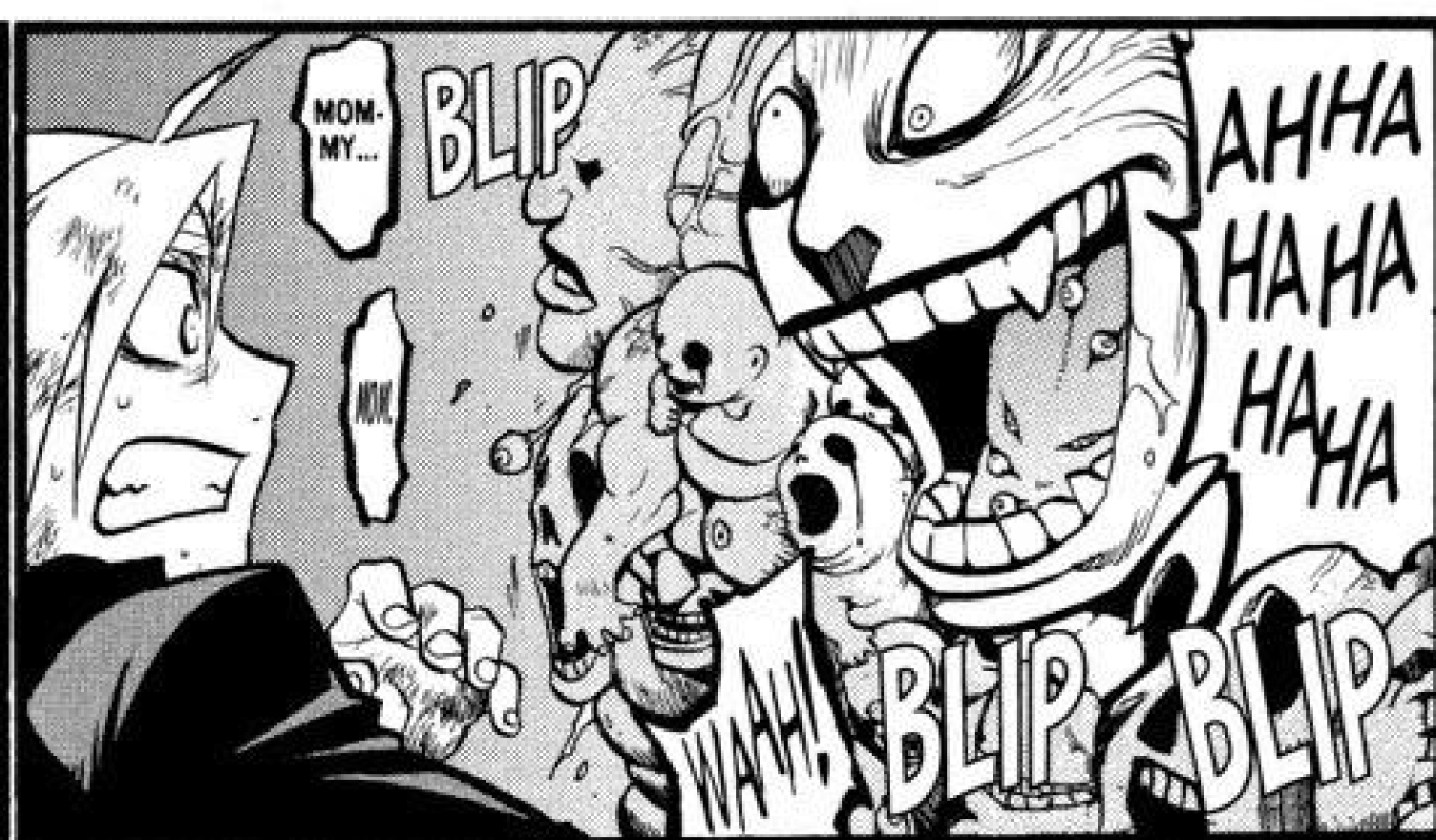
WE'LL
SEE.



LET'S
GO!!









GUSH



QUIT
SPACING
OUT,
YOU
IDIOT
!!



YOU'RE
WRONG!!
IT'S A
MONSTER
!!

THEY'RE
CRYING
OUT
FOR
HELP
!!

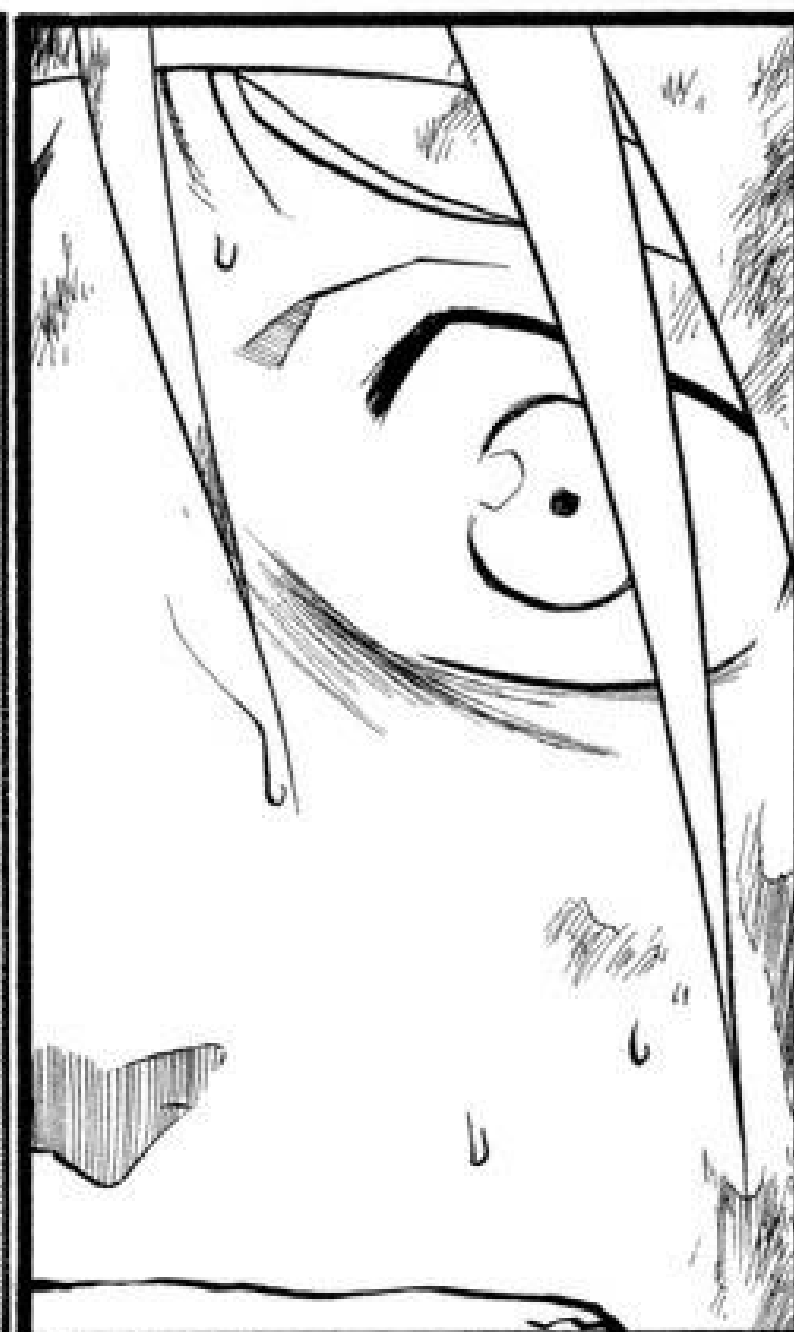
THERE
ARE
PEO-
PLE
IN-
SIDE.



PEO-
PLE...

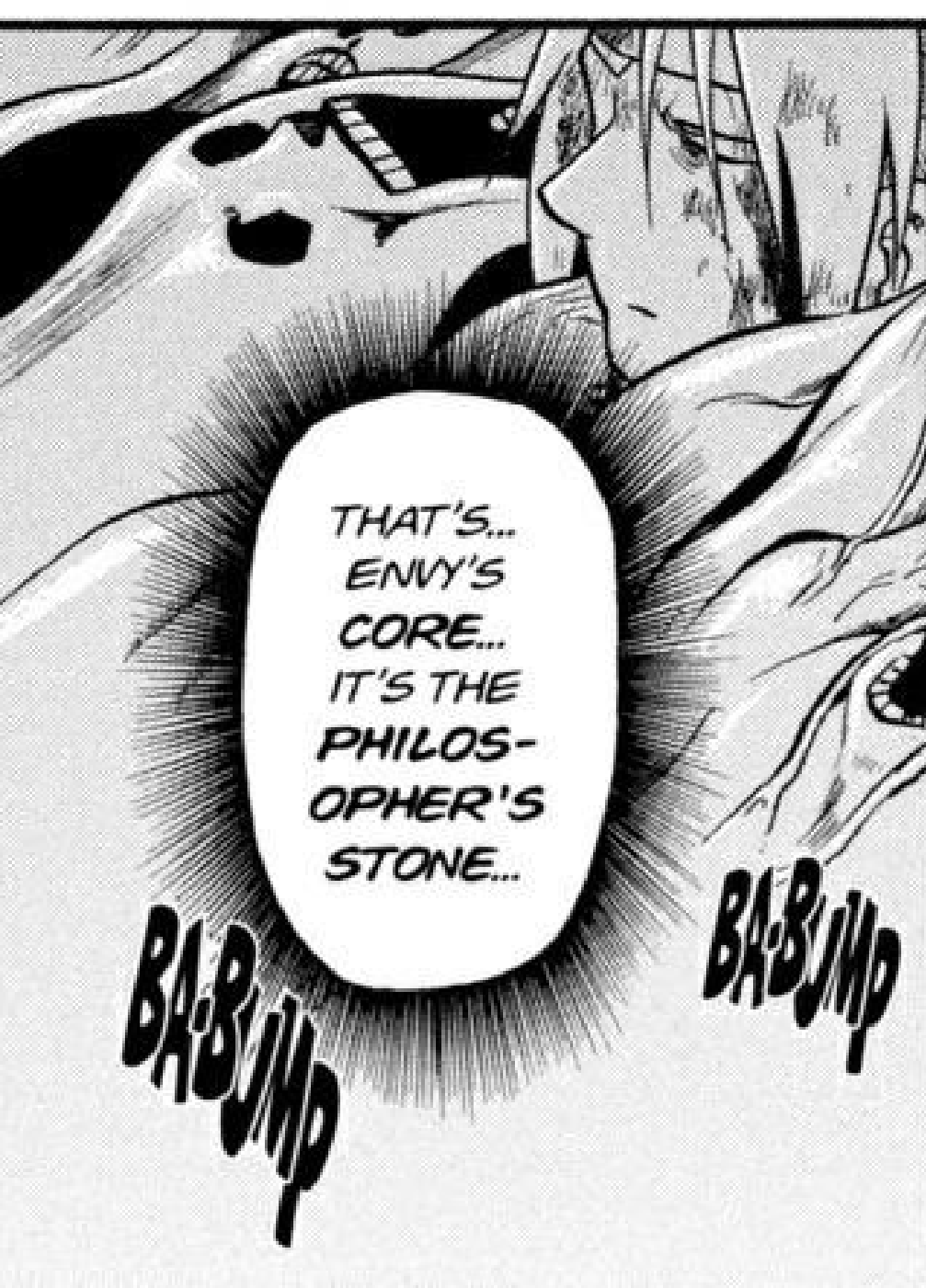
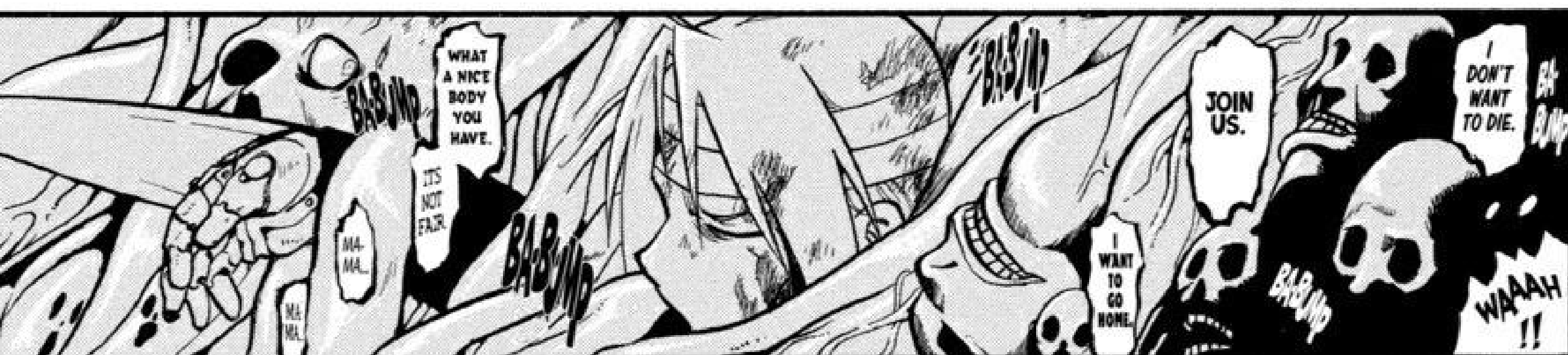
WHY
DO
YOU
HESI-
TATE
!?!





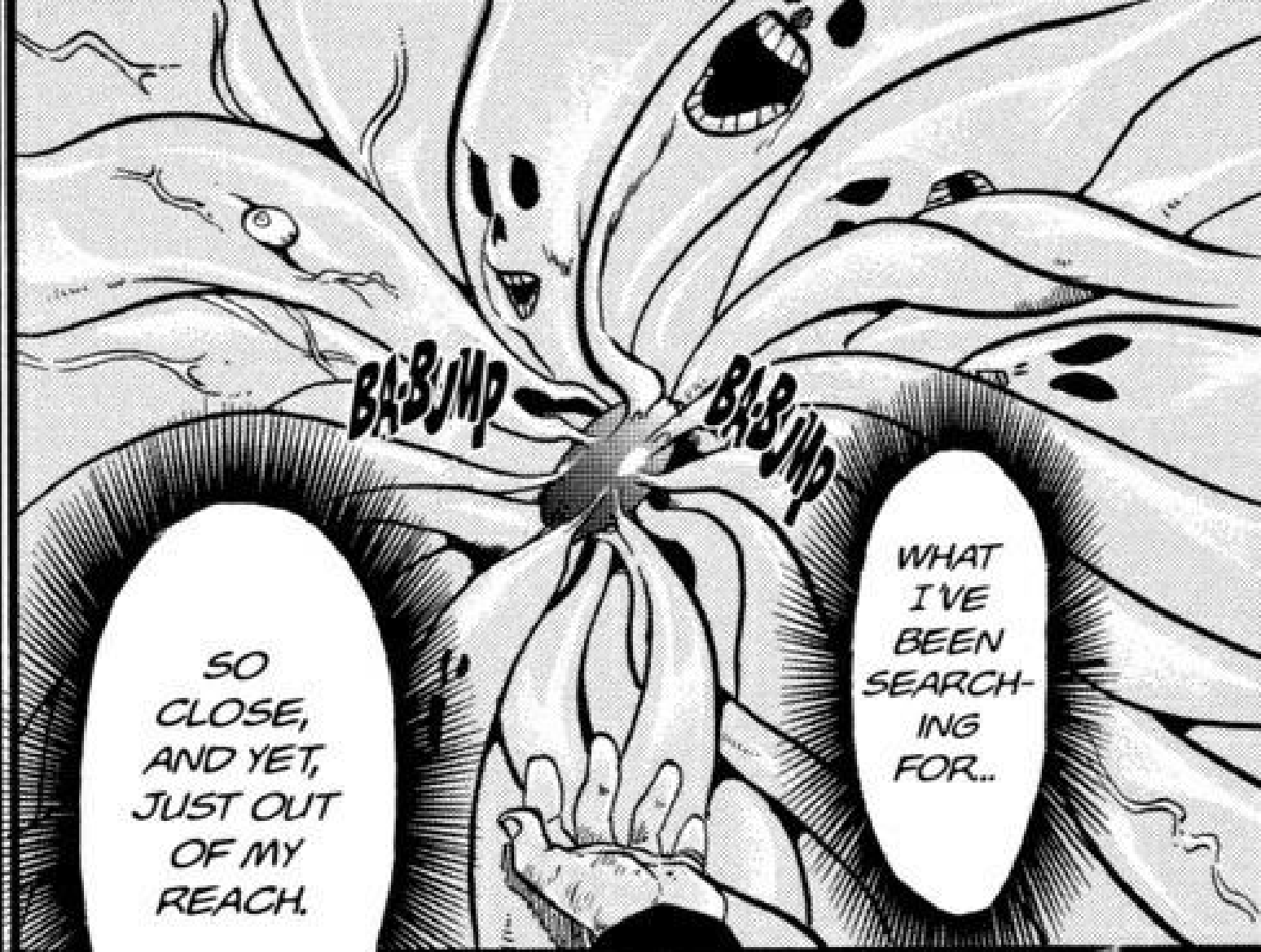






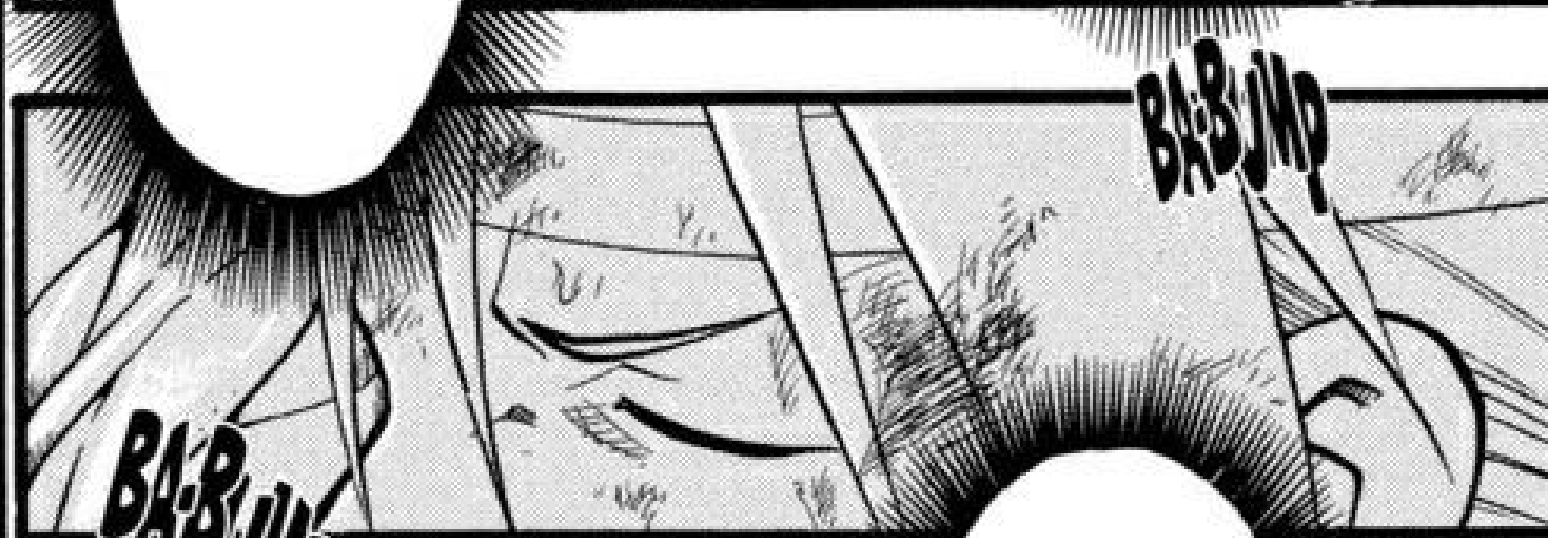
BA-BUMP

MP!



SO
CLOSE,
AND YET,
JUST OUT
OF MY
REACH.

WHAT
I'VE
BEEN
SEARCH-
ING
FOR...



BA-BUMP

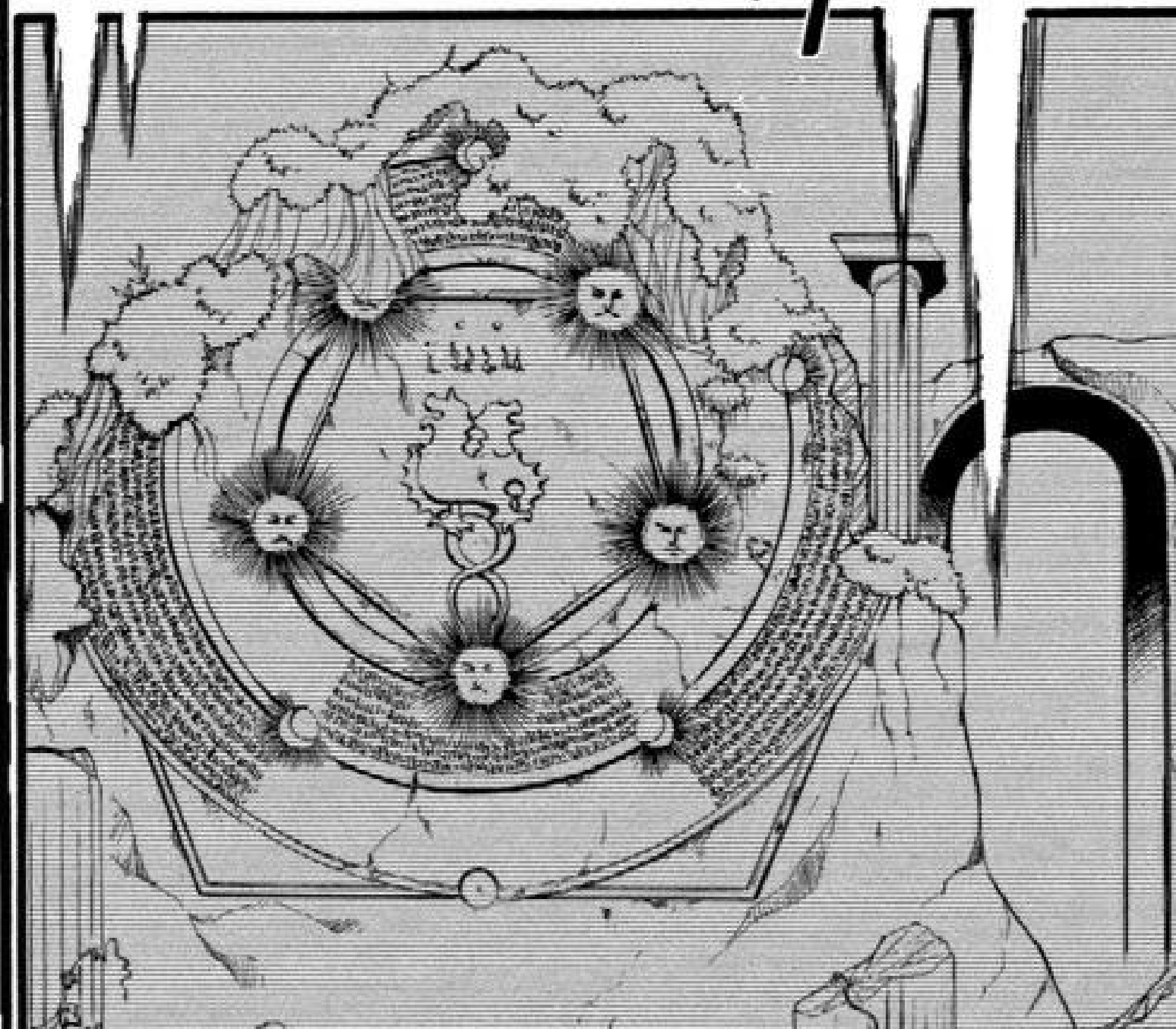
BA-BUMP

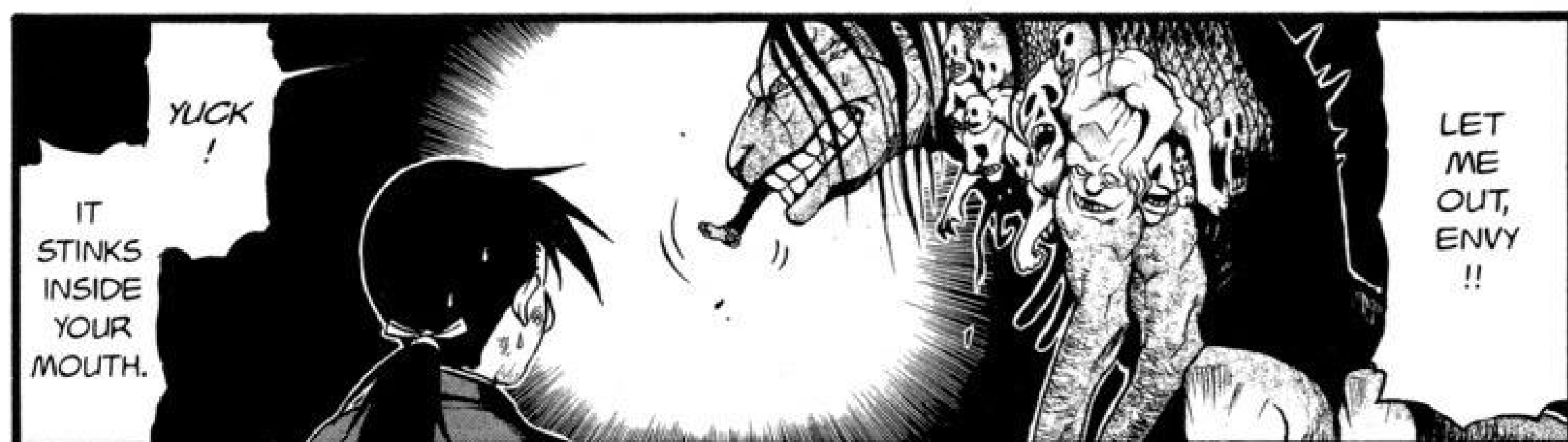


MY LEFT
ARM IS...
DEFINITELY
BROKEN.



BA-BUMP













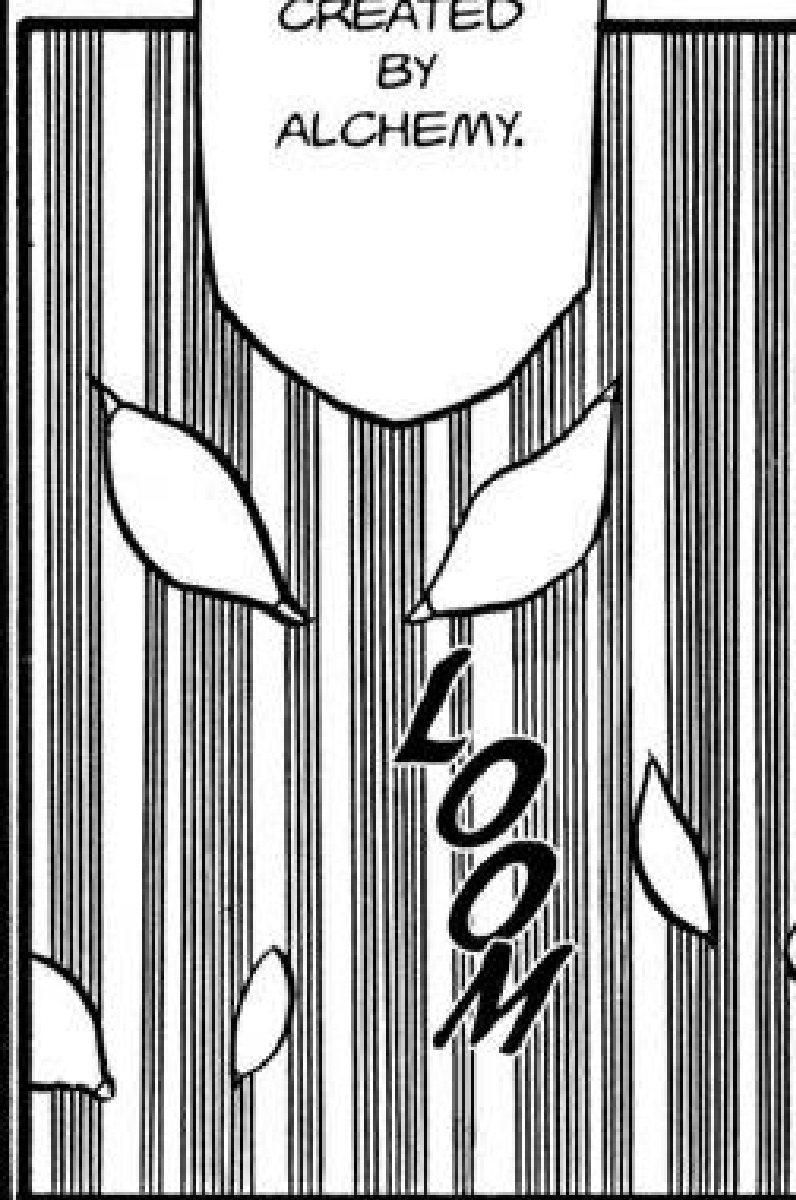
LEAP



THESE
ARE NO
ANIMALS.
THEY ARE
CHIMERA.

KLAK

KLAK



PITIFUL
CREATURES
CREATED
BY
ALCHEMY.

LOOM



B

ZAP



THUP THUP THUP

YELP!

THUP



